SALE OF PROPERTY AT WRANGELL, ALASKA.

Dr. Condit having made it clear that the Board has more ground at Wrangell than it needs, while on the other hand the town needs lots for its growth, and in order to overcome the criticisms now extant in Wrangell that the Board ~~has~~ is holding more land than is needed in its work, the Executive Council recommend to the Finance Committee that favorable action be taken upon the request of Dr. Condit that authority be given him to dispose of a certain number of lots to the citizens of Wrangell at a price that is commensurate with their value, and that Dr. Condit be authorized to have the necessary survey made that a definite and legal description can be given to such lots as may be sold from time to time.

It is understood, however, that the sale of each lot will be submitted to the Finance Committee, together with the proposed sale price so that definite action can be taken on each case.

*****

We hold 7 81/100 acres

Be generous with land & lots

F.C.

RE: Ft. Wrangell Church, Alaska

On the occasion of my visit to Alaska the steamer made an hour's stop at Wrangell. I mdt Dr. Diven and learned that the Church property was going to ruin through neglect. It was necessary that something should be done and under the careful and intelligent leadership of Dr. Diven a goodly amount of repairs was made at a cost of $500.29. So urgent were these repairs that Dr. Diven advanced the money himself. The unfortunate condition of the property arose through the previous missionary ignoring his duty in the matter of ~~property~~ protecting our property.

I suggest that the above amount be refunded to Dr. Diven from Suspense account with the understanding that this sum is to be reimbursed from prospective sales to be made of that portion of our property in Wrangell which is not and never will be needed for mission purposes. We have a parcel of ground consisting of about 7.81 acres which has been marked off into plots and as soon as a committee is authorized these lots will be offered for sale.

Get my letter + S.H. Young this prospect care

Pay from Wrangell Sales Fund

ROYAL A. GUNNISON
RALPH E. ROBERTSON

WESTERN UNION
A. B. C.
BEDFORD-McNEIL
RECEIVED
OCT 4 1917
REGISTRAR'S OFFICE

GUNNISON & ROBERTSON
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW
Suite 200 Seward Bldg
JUNEAU, ALASKA

September 24, 1917.

L 24

The Board of Home Missions
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.
Attention Mr. H. C. Olin.

Gentlemen:

Re Wrangell Patent:

We have received Patent No. 587896 running to the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, from the Juneau Land Office, and are today sending it to Wrangell to be recorded there. When received back from the Recorder, we will send it on to you.

Yours very truly,

GUNNISON & ROBERTSON.

By Royal A. Gunnison

RAG/ENS

ROYAL A. GUNNISON
RALPH E. ROBERTSON

WESTERN UNION
A. B. C.
BEDFORD-McNEIL

GUNNISON & ROBERTSON
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW
Suite 200 Seward Bld'g
~~101-107 DECKER BUILDING~~
JUNEAU, ALASKA

October 10, 1917.

Board of Home Missions,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, N. Y.

In re Wrangell Patent.
Attention Mr. Banks.

Gentlemen:-

We transmit to you herewith the UnitedStates Patent No 587896 for sevn and 81/100 acres of land at Wrangell, which Patent was issued on June 12, 1917, and is recorded in Book of Deeds and Mortages No 6 page 1 of the Records of the Wrangell Recording Office, the recording having been made on Octoberl, 1917.

We have paid the recording fee, charging the same to the account of the Board as usual. Statement will be rendered in due time.

May we ask that you acknowledge the receipt of the Patent.

Yours truly,

Gunnison & Robertson,

per Ralph Gunnison

RAG/g

Enc. U. S. Patent.

In re Wrangell, Alaska, Patent.

October 22, 1917.

Messrs. Gunnison and Robertson,
Suite 200 Seward Building,
Juneau, Alaska.

Dear Sirs:-

We beg to acknowledge your favor of the tenth instant with which you enclosed U. S. Patent #587896 conveying to this Board 7.81 acres of land at Wrangell, said patent having been issued on June twelfth, 1917, and duly recorded.

We thank you for this enclosure.

Yours very truly,

Assistant Treasurer.

B-CM

May 23, 1918.

Rev. J. S. Clark,
Wrangell, Alaska.

Dear Mr. Clark:-

Your letter of the 7th inst., addressed to our Dr. Dixon, has been placed in my hands for reply.

You report that the Town of Wrangell has assessed the church property for street improvements in the sum of $115.84, and you ask that check for this amount be sent and made payable to Charles Benjamin, Treasurer of the town.

There is no provision made in the budget of the Board for Alaska for any such item and in view of the dire necessities of the Board, due to the fact that not only did we close the last fiscal year with a debt of over $270,000, but for the further reason that the budget of the Board for the current fiscal year calls for a much largar sum than our anticipated income, we must turn to your people to consider the question of taking care of this item.

While it is true that the Board of Home Missions owns the church property at Wrangell, yet that property is placed at the disposal of the people whom you serve without cost to them, and in the event that the laws of the territory of Alaska make no provision for the exemption of church properties from taxation, then I want to submit to you the proposition that you take this matter up with your people and urge upon them that it would not only be proper, but desirable, for the sum of $115.84 called for by this assessment be provided for by the congregation.

For many years now the Board has entirely supported the men who have supplied the various fields in Alaska with the Gospel and have erected church and manse buildings for the benefit of the people served with very little, or in most cases no expense to the people themselves. It seems to me that the time has arrived when the people that have been aided in deriving benefit from the work of the many men who have accomplished so much good for the people in Alaska, should be expected to take care of an item of this kind, since they are enjoying the use of the property, simply as a matter of grateful appreciation if for no other reason.

I am inclined to think that if the matter is carefully and properly put before the people they will surely respond. We know, as you do yourself from experience, that no people can be expected to respond to a need unless the need is presented, and if the W rangell congregation is made to understand that the people in the States have extraordinary burdens of their own to carry, such as Liberty Bonds, Y.M.C.A. and Red Cross Funds, in addition to the high increase in prices, which, of course, more or less is reflected in the life of the people in Alaska as well, they could be made to appreciate, I am sure, the opportunity which now confronts them, to give practical assistance to the Board in this particular instance.

Very sincerely yours,

VB/K

Assistant Treasurer.

In re Wrangell, Alaska.

September 5, 1918.

Rev. James H. Condit, D.D.,

Juneau, Alaska.

Dear Dr. Condit:-

A short time ago we had referred to this office by Rev. J. S. Clark of Wrangell a bill of $115.00 covering a street assessment made against the Wrangell Church property. I sent Mr. Clark, after conference with our Dr. Dixon, a reply concerning this item, of which I enclose a copy. We are now in receipt of a communication from Mr. Clark written on his quarterly report blank which reads as follows:

> "How about the street and the town assessment for it. The frontage of the property here is nearly 600 feet and it is costly to keep up this much street. The new street for which the assessment is made is east of the church building, along a vacant part of the Board's property, and as the people are trying to do all they can in the way of contributing they can not pay the $115.00 street assessment, and that was the reason I sent the bill to the Board. If we could raise that in connection with the other contributions I would gladly do so. Mr. Banks writes me throwing the matter back on the church and that is the reason for this explanation."

There is no provision made in the Alaskan budget for an expense of this kind and, therefore, at Dr. Dixon's suggestion I am referring the matter to you that you may take this matter up with Mr. Clark and the Wrangell people with the view of securing their cooperation in providing for the above assessment. Mr. Clark's report shows that he has an average attendance of forty at the white church and I assume that this is the church against which the assessment has been made. If the members of Mr. Clark's congregation were impressed with the fact that the Board of Home Missions has been mighty generous to them in supplying them with a minister and a church building they surely can be induced to pay this small expense if distributed equitably throughout the whole congregation.

We feel that the time has come when the people in our various missions, not only in Alaska but elsewhere as well, should be impressed with the necessity for helping themselves more and more and to banish the idea that the Board stands ready to supply all financial assistance asked. We have the same situation to overcome here, comparatively speaking, as confronts the Alaskan people and it is both desirable and necessary that each community shall bear as large a proportion of the

burden as is possible. For Mr. Clark to simply say "If we could raise that in connection with the other contributions I would be glad to do so" is not conclusive. If he said that he had canvassed the congregation thoroughly and found that the people could not or would not consider the raising of the amount with which to pay this assessment, then that would open another phase of the matter.

The Wrangell people now have an opportunity to show their appreciation of both the past and present generosity of the Board and I, therefore, put the matter up to you in the hope that you may find a way open to provide for the payment of this assessment without referring it to the Board.

Yours very sincerely,

Assistant Treasurer.

B-CM

September 6, 1918.

Re: Wrangell, Alaska

Rev. J.S. Clark
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Clark:-

Dr. Dixon has placed in my hands your report for the quarter ending June 30th, with special reference to your reply to my letter of May 23rd last concerning the assessment against the Wrangell property for street improvements.

I have forwarded to Dr. Condit a copy of my letter to you of the above mentioned date, with the request that he take this matter up with you and your people with a definite view of securing the cooperation of the Fort Wrangell Church in meeting this assessment.

In the meantime, (and this is the burden of my present letter) can you not take the matter up before your people and frankly state the situation, and ask them to make such subscriptions as will enable the full amount to be ultimately paid and then obtain from some source, (amd as to this I can make no suggestion) the full amount so that prompt payment can be made to the Treasurer of the town for this assessment. I am hoping that when Dr. Condit confers with you as to this situation, a way will be open by which this bill can be paid without calling upon the Board.

If you have not in effect presented the matter to the congregation as a whole, would it not be well to call a meeting of the church, or even to bring up the matter after a church service, by reading my letter to them of May 23rd last, or such portions thereof as in your judgment will present the matter as we view it. In view of the long period of time in which this Board has rendered aid to the Fort Wrangell Church, I cannot believe that that church will fail to respond to the recommendations of this Board that they meet this bill themselves.

Very sincerely yours,

VB/K

Assistant Treasurer.

Wrangell, Alaska, September 30, 1918.

Rev. J.H.Condit, D.D.

Juneau, Alaska.

Dear Dr. Condit:

In reply to your letter I wish to say that I desire to do all I can in the matter of raising the funds to meet the expense of the church street, but it was as I wrote the Board, a very hard thing to do to try to raise the money here when there was so much street to look after. And at the time I wrote them about the street assessment, the people had gone away to their fishing and other work and there no people here to appeal to for funds, and now I have to wait until the cannery business is closed or some of the work at least so the parties can get back to town. That is the reason it is so difficult to raise such a fund. The people are scattered most of the year, and the people he speaks of as being an average attendance many times are transients who give nothing to church work. Certainly I will do all I can to raise this money. I appreciate what the Board has done for the work in Alaska as well as any one else, and yet we labor under many difficulties an these places.

I hope you will have pleasand and profitable time at Synod.

Sincerely yours, J.S.Blank

I wish to thank you for your work in getting the salaries raised. It is a help in these times of straitness.

PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON
JAMES H. CONDIT
STATED CLERK

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

HEADQUARTERS
No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

October 22, 1918

Mr. Varian Banks,

156 5th Avenue, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Banks:

Under date September 5th, 1918, I received a letter from you relative to the assessment of $115 made by the Wrangell corporation upon our mission property for street improvements, in the shape of a plank road, bill for which was sent to the Board. This bill is protested by your office, as I understand it, for two reasons, first, no appropriation in Alaska budget for expenses of this kind; second, that the fields in Alaska fail to properly appreciate their responsibilities and duties along the line of self support and that the Wrangell people ought to pay this bill.

I wrote you on September 21st that I was taking the matter up with Mr. Clark by mail and would report in full when I had heard from him.

Herewith I enclose Mr. Clark's reply. It would seem to indicate that Mr. Clark will do something toward raising this money.

The following is to be said for the Wrangell church:

(1) The improvement is in the nature of a plank road, extending along the frontage of the mission property for that portion of the frontage which is east of the lot occupied by the church and manse. It is made necessary in order to reach that portion of the town corporation beyond the church and mission ground.

It is of no value to the church lot or the manse lot. It only improves the portion of the mission ground not used by the church or manse, ground which had never been broken or used.

Inasmuch as the title is in the Board and also inasmuch as the increased valuation accrues to the Board and is of no service to the church the people may naturally question their liability for this improvement.

(2) The total membership of the white church at Wrangell is 36, which includes a number of children. There are but a very few who are able to give any appreciable amount toward the support of the work. Yet these 36 people contributed $90 to Home Missions last year and $32 to the other Boards.

The native church has 67 members enrolled. They contributed $10 to Home Missions and $7 to the other Boards.

This makes a total of $100 given to the Home Board last year and a total of $139 to all boards. In addition is the amount contributed to local support. As I remember it the church is paying $100 per year towards the support of their minister.

In my judgement it is better for the church to make its contribution to the Board even if that contribution should be returned to the church.

This is the best that I can do at present in meeting this Wrangell situation. In the mean time the bill stands against the Board of Home Missions

as unpaid. The situation is undesirable from the view point of the credit of the Board of Home Missions in Wrangell.

A legal question as to liability might, I presume, be raised, inasmuch as patent was granted to the Board for this mission tract before the town patent was issued. or if this be not chronologically correct, then. the mission tract was excluded in the granting of the town patent and does not appear as a part of the corporate limits in the official plat. But, on the other hand, the mission tract is within the town limits and our church and manse are served with town improvements such as light, water, etc. Should we protest the payment of assessments against the property we could naturally expect nothing else than that we should be cut off from town service.

In this connection I wish to have a ruling from the Financial Committee as to the advisability of disposing of such portion of the tract as is not in use for mission purposes. Part of the ground on the front of the tract could probably be sold if subdivided into town lots. This would not only provide for the payment of this assessment but also would obviate farther expense along this line. This would involve a survey of the ground which it is proposed to dispose of.

I am again writing to Mr. Clark urging that at least an effort be made to meet this assessment.

Very sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

November 14, 1918.

In re Wrangell, Alaska

Rev. James H. Condit, D.D.
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Dr. Condit:-

In reply to your letter of the 22nd ult. in which you report the progress on the matter of the $115 assessed against the Board's property at Wrangell, and with more particular reference to that part of of your letter in which you ask that a decision be reached regarding the advisability of selling a portion of the tract of land at Wrangell not required for mission purposes; I have to say that the matter was brought to the attention of our Finance Committee yesterday.

The Committee looked favorably upon your suggestion, but directed that we first secure all necessary details in order that the Executive Council of the Board might consider them and make a recommendation to our Finance Committee. I will, therefore, ask you to send me, as soon as may be convenient, the following information:

1st: What would it cost to make a survey of such portion of the ground at Wrangell as is not in use for mission purposes?

2nd: Furnish a diagram of such portion of the ground and show thereon the remaining property and location of the building or buildings erected thereon.

3rd: From such information as you may have or can obtain, we would like to have an approximate estimate of the value of the lots that may be available for sale.

4th: Is it proposed to sell the lots by private sale or at auction? This is quite an important point as only by private sale can you restrict the character of the purchasers so as to avoid the aquisition of undesirable neighbors who may possibly be a detriment to the remainder of the property retained by the Board and to the work itself.

Other facts may, as the result of your investigation, come to light; if so, kindly let us have them as well as I have only attempted to cover information which comes to my mind at this writing.

Sincerely yours,

VB/K

Assistant Treasurer.

PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON
JAMES H. CONDIT
STATED CLERK

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

HEADQUARTERS
No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

Wrangell Alaska

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

February 1,1919

Mr. Varian Banks,

156 5th Avenue,

New York.

My dear Mr. Banks:

On October 22nd,1918, in connection with other matters concerning our Wrangell field, I raised the question of surveying the Board's holdings there with a view of disposing of town lots, to include the portion of the mission tract not in use by the mission.

In reply I received a request from you that information be furnished your office regarding the cost of necessary survey, probable value of lots, and that a sketch of the mission ground indicating proposed subdivisions be furnished. I sent this letter to our Rev. Mr. Clark, of Wrangell, with the request that he prepare the sketch and furnish desired information. In his recent reply he neglected to return the letter from your office and I am therefore unable to give the date of same.

Mr Clark says:-

"Upon receipt of your letter regarding the church property here, I drew the enclosed plat for your consideration. It is drawn on a scale of 1½ inches to the 100 feet. The survey was platted on a scale of ¾ of an inch to the 100 feet, but I thought this would be on too small a scale to get a proper perspective of the property. I had to use ordinary drawing instruments and not platting instruments.

4 @ 350 = 1400.-
4 @ 275 = 1100.-
10 @ 200 = 2000.-
11 @ 150 = 1650.-
7450.-

There is no surveyor in town that I have been able to locate, and I do not know of a compass for the work here. If I had a good compass I could do the work myself but I have none. The plat will give you a general outline of the lots and streets and alleys. The streets and alleys may not be of the propler width for I drew them hurriedly.

The lots on Church street, lying between the church and the government school house are cleared and are valuable lots. They ought to be worth about $350 per lot. The next four immediately back of these are also cleared and are good lots and ought to be worth about $275 per lot. All the others are not cleared but have small growth of spruce and hemlock and cedar on them. They are not hard to clear and the first row shpuld bring about $200 each and the upper lots should be worth about $150 each.

If we could find a surveyor in Wrangell the survey ought to cost no more than $100. But if we have to ship one in it will likely cost twice that much."

I am of the opinion that it would not be advisable to have the work done by Mr. Clark, even if the compass could be furnished, for the reason that such a survey, involving the guaranty of title, should be made by one of the deputy U.S.surveyors. I have no doubt but that Mr. Clark could arrange to assist the surveyor and thus save a part of the expense for field man.

At the present time there is no surveyor available in S.E.Alaska. Heretofore we have had several men who could be secured but all are away now in war service. However, several of these men will be back early this summer and I have no doubt but that we will be able to get a man by the time the season is favorable for such work.

The usual compensation for services of such a surveyor is about $20 per day. In addition we would have to meet his travelling expenses from Juneau to Wrangell and return. I would consider, therefore, that Mr. Clark's estimate of $200 for the job would not be far from the mark.

In my judgement it is advisable to proceed with this survey and put the lots on the market as soon as possible in order that we may be accumulating a fund with which to build a new manse, a much needed improvement at Wrangell.

An additional reason is that the mission tract, while not included in the town plat for the reason that the patent to same antedates the town site survey, is within the town limits and therefore subject to assessment for street and other town improvements. As the greater part of the ground is at present not being used by the mission and will not be needed for the same it would seem advisable to dispose of such portion of the ground as is not required for our use.

I will await your farther advice as to proceeding along the indicated lines above. I would farther add that the estimate of cost of survey is not intended to be more than an approximate figure as it is at present impossible to obtain anything more definite. It is not far frpm correct.

Very sincerely yours,

James A. Condit

sketch enclosed

Wrangell,Alaska,May 27,1919.

Rev.J.H.Conditt,D.D.

Juneau, Alaska.

Dear Dr. Condit:-

I am sending the diagrams and plans of two buildings. One of them marked No.1 is the one I prefer, but the other one will make a splendid Manse.

Either of these building will be much better than the plan sent to the Board two or three years ago.These have room enough for a family to live in them, and they will suit the ground well also.

If either of these is selected,it will be necessary for me to have the plan returned so I can obtain the plans and blue prints.

There are no trustees for this church,and therefore there can be no request for the money by them.The Board owns the property.

The house marked No.1 will cost probably $3800.00and the other one $3500.00,but Mr. Campbell the builderhere much prefers this No. 1. It suits the location so much better. Try and get the No.1.

The plat is on a scale half as large as the one I sent you and the lot is about one and a half acres,valued at about $1500.00,and the church and Manse will both be on it.

Sincerely yours,

J. H. Clark

P.S. The lot is one of the best in the town. You know all about it.

Jud Yoho
Edw. L. Merritt

CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW COMPANY

DESIGNERS OF

ARTISTIC HOMES

Our Bungalows
are just a little different
from the rest

Empire Building
Seattle, Wash.

June 20, 1919.

Mr. J. S. Clark,
Wrangell, Alaska.

My dear Sir:-

Your letter under date of June 10th has been received, and we are shipping to you today, per American Railway Express, the plans and specifications of our design #524, with a C. O. D. attached, in the amount of $5.00, as per your request.

You undoubtedly have one of our old catalogs, in which this house was listed , $5.00 for complete plans and specifications. Owing to the increased cost in blueprinting, labor, etc, it was necessary for us to raise the price of these plans, and in our last two catalogs it has been listed at $10.00. We are therefore compelled to ask for the difference, which is $5.00.

Regarding the estimate of this house, including a furnace, under present prices, wish to advise that locally, this house would cost $4500. Not being familiar with prices of labor and material in Wrangell, it is impossible for us to estimate this particular building any closer for you, than Seattle prices.

Thanking you kindly for your favor, and trusting that the plans reach you without delay, we are

ELM:M

Yours very truly,

CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW CO.,

By Edw L Merritt

BUNGALOWS :: ARE :: BUILT :: TO :: LIVE :: IN :: AS :: WELL :: AS :: TO :: LOOK :: AT

Wrangell,Alaska,July 15,1919.

Rev.David Waggoner,
Chairman of Committee on Church Erection
Juneau Alaska.
Dear My Waggoner:-

For and on behalf of the church in Wrangell, I wish to make application for a grant of $.....with which to build a manse in the town of Wrangell.

I handed you the plans and specifications for the same. Four years ago this building could have been erected for $2800.00, but now the estimate of the architect, at Seattle prices is not less than $4500.00. Mr. Campbell told me today that he would take the contract to build the house NOW according to the plans and specifications, for the sum, not to exceed $4800.00, and that he might be able to build it for less. But he would have to obtain the prices of every thing that enters into the construction of the house.

If the Board can make a grant, and after everthing has been gone over and prices obtained for each article, then the contract can be let to the lowest responsible bidder under the $4800.00, stated by Mr, Campbell.

If the Board can make the grant, the whole matter can be placed under the supervision of the Committee on Home Missions of Presbytery, and let to the lowest responsible bidder.

The reason for this is, that it will be late in the fall now before the matter can be got through, and the contract let, and it is necessary to have the building begun and completed as soon as possible before the fall weather begins.

This with the plans and specifiacations you now have for the Board is all that I can furnish until I send these plans and specifications to a firm in Seattle who furnishes much of the material that would go into this building.

Sincerely yours,

J. E. Clark

AUG 2 - 1919

HOME MISSION COMMITTEE
and
VACANCY AND SUPPLY

REV. GEORGE G. BRUCE, Ch.
Juneau, Alaska
REV. E. L. WINTERBERGER,
Haines, Alaska
REV. DAVID WAGGONER,
Juneau, Alaska

PRESBYTERY
OF ALASKA

REV. DAVID WAGGONER,
Juneau, Alaska
Stated Clerk and Treasurer
REV. JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D.
General Missionary
Juneau, Alaska

Juneau, Alaska,

July 21, 1919.

Rev.John Dixon,D.D.,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Dr.Dixon:

I am enclosing the papers connected with the building of the Manse at Wrangell. Our Committee has been trying to get the papers for some time but were delayed on account of the failure of the architect at Seattle to properly mail the plans to Mr.Clark.

You will notice that there has been a considerable increase in the cost of the house. While the committee feels the imperative need of the manse there is a hesitation on the part of some to recommend to the Board the expenditure of $4500 or perhaps more. Since conferring with Mr.Bruce I have had the opportunity to study the plans more carefully. I do not believe the building can be built more cheaply than the estimate, nor do I feel that the building too elaborate for the Wrangell property.

We think therefore that the matter should be decided by the Board,. We have erased the original figures from the recommendations and ask the Board to fill in as it shall decide.

The plans should be returned to Mr.Clark at the earliest date with instructions in regard to the building. This is necessary in order to get as much of the work done as possible before the shortening of the daylight, which will increase the cost of labor.

Sincerely, David Waggoner,

August 19, 1919.

Re: Wrangell, Alaska

Rev. J.S. Clark
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Clark:-

I have this day placed in the hands of Rev. David G. Wylie, Secretary of the Board of the Church Erection Fund, the application for aid made out by you, which we have filled in and signed, asking for a grant of $3,800 for the proposed manse building at Wrangell. I have stated to Dr. Wylie that this amount in the judgment of the Home Mission Committee will be sufficient to erect the proposed building and is the minimum amount that will be required.

No progress could be made by forwarding this application on the 2nd inst., the day it reached here, for the reason that the Church Erection Board holds no meeting in August; therefore I regret to say no definite word can reach you as to the decision of that Board in connection with this application until the latter part of September, if then. I am rather inclined to think it will be well towards the close of the first week in October before word can reach you as to the amount that is available for this building.

We, of course, will have to depend upon the Board of Church Erection Fund for the full amount required as the Board of Home Missions has no fund of any kind available for buildings. The budget of the Boards for the current year included the amount necessary to carry on the current work only and not a single building has been provided for. If the result of the New Era Movement proves to be,as we hope it will be,a success in the matter of raising the amount of funds required by each Board, there will doubtless be an effort made next year to provide some fund for the erection of, or replacements to, needed buildings.

Under separate cover I am returning the specifications and the blue prints which we received and which I now return at your request, together with the pictures of the two plans.

In considering these plans as illustrated, it seems to me that as the one marked number 2 can be built for less, and the arrangement of the rooms is fully as conveniently situated as in the plan number 1, it might be well, even though the lot is more adapted to the number 1 plan, to save the cost as between the two buildings so as to be sure to bring that cost within the tentative sum of $3,800 which we hope the Board of Church Erection will eventually grant. It looks as though this $500 could be saved by using the number 2 plan.

I think it should be given further and careful consideration, especially in view of the fact that there is no way I know of,this year at

least, in which any additional sum can be secured, even upon the supposition that the Church Erection Board will grant the full sum now asked for. Personally, I should much prefer number 2 plan from the viewpoint of convenience and utility, although the number 1 plan from the outside view shows up more advantageously and would meet the approval of the majority.

I am sending a carbon copy of this letter to Mr. Bruce and to Mr. Waggoner so that should you desire to consult either before reaching a decision it will save you the trouble of repeating the foregoing.

Sent.

Sincerely yours,

VB/K Assistant Treasurer.

October 3, 1919.

Re: Wrangell, Alaska, Manse.

Rev. James H. Condit, D.D.
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Dr. Condit:-

During your absence on a missionary tour we had correspondence with Mr. Clark of Wrangell concerning the need for a manse building at Wrangell and upon recommendation of the Home Mission Committee of the Presbytery application was made on behalf of this Board to the Board of the Church Erection Fund for a grant of $3,800 with which to erect this manse building. I am now advised by Dr. Wylie of the latter Board that a grant of $3,800 has been made and this sum will be available in the near future.

In the meantime, inasmuch as Mr. Clark has now left Wrangell, I write to ascertain if it is thought desirable to begin the erection of the manse building with no man on the ground to oversee the structure. I do not want to ask the Board of Church Erection to pay over the above sum until such time as it is likely to be needed, hence before furnishing the final document upon which the payment is made, I will await your reply to the foregoing.

I may add that there were two plans submitted by Mr. Clark marked number 1 and 2, together with specifications, blueprints and pictures of the two plans, and while number 1 was considered the better one of the two as more adapted to the lot on which the building is to be erected, yet the plan number 2 could be built for less and seemed to meet the needs fully as well as the other, and in view of the increased cost of the buildings I stated in my letter to Mr. Clark that it would be better to select the nunber two plan as it would cost $500 less, according to the estimate received.

I will be glad to hear from you and will take prompt steps to secure the payment of the grant as against the time when it will be actually needed.

Very sincerely yours,

VB/K Assistant Treasurer.

PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON
JAMES H. CONDIT
STATED CLERK

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

HEADQUARTERS
No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

October 21,1919

Mr. Varian Banks,
156 5th Avenue, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Banks:

I am in receipt of your letter of October 9,1919, setting forth the action of the Executive Council "In re Alaska properties".

May I ask if any action was taken in regard to the sale of lots from the Wrangell mission tract as according to my letter of February 1,1919. In this case the benefits of the sale would not accrue to Indians and has no relation to Indian needs. Will you kindly inform me as soon as ascertained what the decision of the Executive Council is.

My position with respect to money invested by the Board in Alaska is that the increase due to the developement of the country rightfully belongs to Alaska work. For example, the land at Juneau, sold in two tracts, and bringing to the Board $7,000 and $10,000, respectively, cost the Board little or nothing. Likewise the old Friends' property at Douglas was disposed of at a good profit. It seems only fair that the increment should be reinvested in Alaska mission property as it is the result of the growth of the country. Certainly land obtained by patent for mission work in Alaska should not be diverted.

Sincerely,

James H. Condit

i

November 5, 1919.

Re: Wrangell, Alaska.

Rev. James H. Condit, D.D.

Juneau, Alaska

Dear Dr. Condit:-

Since writing you on the above matter I have received a reply from Dr. Wylie, and now enclose copy of his reply. You will note that it will be necessary for you to go ahead in the matter of adopting a workable plan suitable for the Alaskan climate for the Wrangell Manse building. Unless you are on the job all the while during the erection of the building, in which event I do not see how your other work is to be cared for although you may be able to arrange this, I fear it is possible there will be another misfit building erected. However, I may not fully understand the situation, and, therefore, you will accept my warning in the spirit in which it is given.

Yours sincerely,

VB/K Assistant Treasurer.

Enclosure.

November 8, 1919.

Re: Wrangell, Alaska

Rev. James H. Condit, D.D.

Juneau, Alaska

Dear Dr. Condit:-

Since writing you on the above matter I have received reply from Dr. Wylie, copy of which I enclose, from which you will note that you can go ahead in the matter of securing plans suitable for the above building. Unless someone is on the job all the while during the erection of the building, is there not a possibility of a like result being obtained as in the case of the Anchorage building. I am only concerned that the manse when built will meet the needs of the missionary as fully as possible.

Sincerely yours,

VB/K Assistant Treasurer.

Enclosure.

December 5, 1919.

Re: Wrangell Manse.

Rev. James H. Condit, D.D.
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Dr. Condit:-

I have again interviewed Dr. Wylie of the Church Erection Board and find that they have no sketches or estimates of any kind in their possession regarding either church or manse buildings. It would be manifestly impossible to have any estimates in view of the great difference in conditions that would apply in the various parts of our country and elsewhere. An additional reason for having no such data available is that were the Board of Church Erection to submit sketches and estimates of proposed buildings and application should be made for the amount necessary to provide for the balance of the costs as were named in such estimates, the result would be that the Board of Church Erection would be called upon to make good the difference between the actual cost and their investment; therefore, it is eminently desirable that the Board of Church Erection should not enter into any question of that kind.

I can see no way for you to make progress in regard to the erection of the above manse other than to have some competent person draw a rough plan of the proposed building and then have the same submitted to a competent builder to furnish an estimate in detail. If it is then found that the $3,800 is not sufficient to complete the building, it will be in order to submit an application for the additional sum needed. Of course, I cannot say that the Board of Church Erection will increase the above amount, but it will do no harm to make the attempt.

Very sincerely yours,

VB/K Assistant Treasurer.

December 8, 1919.

Re: Wrangell, Alaska.

Rev. James H. Condit, D.D.
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Dr. Condit:-

I have personally gone to the offices of the Board of Church Erection Fund and find that they do not have sketches or estimates of any kind in their possession regarding either church or manse buildings. It would be manifestly impracticable to furnish estimates in view of the great difference that would apply to this or that locality. Also, if the Board of Church Erection was to submit estimates of buildings based upon sketches and plans which they furnished, and the total cost of the buildings when completed would exceed such estimate, the result would be in all probability that the Board of Church Erection would be called upon to make good the difference between their estimate and the actual cost. This, of course, would practically mean that the Board of Church Erection would undertake to erect all church and manse buildings at an estimate furnished by them. It can be readily seen, therefore, that it is eminently desirable that the Board of Church Erection should not attempt to render any aid towards the erection of any building beyond the actual sum which they can find it possible to grant.

I can see no better way than for you to either ask some competent person to draw a rough plan of the proposed building, and then have the same submitted to a competent builder for an estimate, he to furnish the data in detail as to the material required, etc. If it is then found that the most economical building which you can erect cannot be built for the sum of $3,800, it would be in order to submit an application to the Board of Church Erection for an additional sum needed. Of course, I cannot say that that Board will increase its grant of the above amount; it will be quite necessary, however, to convince them that an additional sum is needed in order to secure favorable action.

Very sincerely yours,

VB/K Assistant Treasurer.

PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON
JAMES H. CONDIT
STATED CLERK

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

HEADQUARTERS
No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

December 20,1919

Mr. Varian Banks,

156 5th Avenue, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Banks:

I have before me the two letters contained in your communication of December 5th.

These letters refer to two different matters: The first one is in reply to my letter of Ocotber 21st regarding the sale of lots in Wrangell. The letter of December 5th refers to property transfer at Hoonah.

With regard to the latter I fully agree with you that there is nothing now to be done at Hoonah until Mr. Beck's return. As regards farther consultation with him before the action of the Board in formulating deeds is taken I will immediately communicate the contents of your letter and ask for agreement if possible. I am well satisfied that absolute title, without any rectriction on the part of the Board, will be a mistake. At least title should not now be given, nor until the natives have attained a larger degree of stability.

I do not anticipate any great demand for these lots,as they will be occupied only as houses are built upon them and that will be a process of time. I should perhaps say immediate demand. As the people appreciate the advantage of separate houses and as they break away ffom the enslaving old customs they will ask for lots. It should be arranged, therefore, that titles be prepared in blank, and that the missionary pass upn the character of those asking for deeds as the requests come in. It will not be possible to select a series of names to whom title shall be arbitrarily given. Those who move from the present village will do so of their own choice and volition and not upon any co-ercion by any one. Title will be required for individuals, at different times, and can only be executed individually.

I am anxious that the Wrangell situation be understood and action taken as soon as possible.

At Wrangell the sale of lots is not intended to be a benefit to the natives. They do not require any portion of the mission ground for their houses as they are now amply provided for in the section of the town where they live which is entirely separate from the mission tract. No movement looking toward a correction of old custom has been asked for or set in motion. It is not a native problem there.

What we want is authority from the Board to dispose of a certain number of lots to white people and to be absolutely transferred by waranty deed. This is possible because the Board holds completed patent to the tract.

The reason for this is that the mission has more ground than it needs, while on the other hand the town needs these lots for its growth. They

are now segregated from the town site patented ground because the mission survey and claim antedated the town site location and claim. It is proposed now to put these lots on the market in order that the Board may profit by the sale of the same as well as the town be benefited. There has been criticism that the Board is holding more ground than it needs in its work and this will be the proper answer to the criticism.

Such lots will front on one of the main streets of the town, a street already improved with plank road and side walk. The assessments for the improvements, which was met by the local church, I believe, made a pretty heavy burden for the local congregation. The upkeep of these same improvements will involve farter expense to the owners of the ground. It is not advisable to hold the property, no longer needed in mission work, with its liability to assessment for town improvements.

What I would like is assurance from the Board that these lots may be sold and that waranty deed will be forthcoming upon such sales being consummated. The metes and bounds of the tract have been well defined in the original survey. It will only be necessary to delineate boundary lines of the subdivisions. It may be possible to do this without the services of a commissioned surveyor although I am of the opinion that additional survey ought to be made in the interest of clear title. However, this will not be an expensive proposition unless we should find it impossible to engage a local surveyor and would be under the necessity of paying the travelling expenses of one to Wrangell from Juneau or Ketchikan.

With the approaching spring this sale should be undertaken while there is a demand for the lots. In my judgement the Board will never realize more for this ground than it will receive now.

Hoping to hear from you at your convenience in regard to the Wrangell matter and with the compliments of the season, I remain

Cordially yours,

James A. Condit

December 30, 1919.

Re: Wrangell, Alaska.

Rev. James H. Condit, D.D.
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Dr. Condit:-

It is rather unusual in important matters such as contained in your letter of the 20th inst. regarding Hoonah and Wrangell properties to make definite reply by return mail, but inasmuch as the property situation at Wrangell, especially, is one that has been in the air for some time, and I can see the advisability and importance of having definite progress made so as to provide for the carrying out of the recommendation you have more than once made, viz: to sell a number of lots that may not be required from the land owned by the Board at Wrangell to citizens at that place for which, as you say, having a patent from the U.S. Government we can give a warranty deed, I placed your letter received this morning before the Executive Council today and secured their approval to the general proposition, no details being considered at this time, that tentative arrangements be made to sell lots taken from the Board's holdings in order that the town may extend its limits.

Now in order to make progress, and that we may have the most up-to-date information based upon conditions at the present time, will you have prepared and send to me a careful estimate as to the value of the various lots which would seem to be desirable to offer for sale. If, as I take it, you have in mind the platting of all of the ground which the Board does not require in its work, it will, of course, mean that a careful survey will have to be made, as you say, in order to furnish an accurate description of each parcel sold and to be transferred. I, of course, recall, although I do not have it before me at the present moment, the data which you sent me a year or two ago showing the proposed platting of the excess property owned by the Board and the estimated value of each building plot, but I think such data should be revised so as to meet the situation regarding values as it stands today.

As per action of the Council this morning, as in the case of all property matters, this question will be presented to the Finance Committee of the Board at its meeting to be held on January 21st, and doubtless the Finance Committee will make a favorable recommendation to the Board to be considered at the meeting to be held January 22nd. Now in the event of affirmative action, I will prepare for presentation at such meeting a resolution which will empower the proper officer of the Board to sign the required deeds to the purchasers of these plots. Will you kindly let me know, however, regarding the laws of Alaska as to whether they specify the officers of the corporation who will be recognized in making legal transfers of the properties, or whether such officer as may be designated by the corporation to execute in the name and behalf of the Board such deeds of transfer will meet the case. I ask the question for the reason that it will be found much more convenient to have these deeds executed by the Treasurer rather than by the President as the latter official only comes to the Board rooms when the Board meets, and, therefore, necessary delay ensues. in cases where it is necessary for the President to act for the Board.

I will, of course, send you definite word conveying the action of the Board promptly after decision has been reached.

I trust that the coming year will be the most gladsome and successful one in your whole experience, and that the work under your supervision will be blessed in greater measure than ever.

Very sincerely yours,

VB/K Assistant Treasurer.

JOHN B. MARSHALL
ATTORNEY AT LAW
JUNEAU, ALASKA

February 20th, 1920

Dr. J. H. Condit,
Juneau

Concerning conveyances of property executed by the Treasurer of the Board:

Dear Sir:

I beg to refer to our conversation in regard to the execution of conveyances of land by the Treasurer of the Board of some Missions of the Presbyterian Church, by virtue of authority conferred upon him by a resolution of the Directors of the corporation.

While a resolution of the Board for such a purpose would perhaps be legally binding upon the corporation, a conveyance executed by the Treasurer by virtue of such resolution only, would not be satisfactory to a discriminating purchaser. This is due to the fact that ordinarily the duties of a Treasurer do not include the execution of such an instrument, and one examining a title so conveyed would want to know the source of that officer's authority. While this authority would be satisfactorily established if a proper record had been kept, after the lapse of years it is possible that it might be attended with some difficulty.

The only satisfactory way of conveying the title of the corporation, other than the usual and established method provided in the articles of incorporation or by-laws, is by a power of attorney, the execution of which should be duly authorized by a resolution of the Board, and this power, of course, could run to any person, whether an officer of the corporation or not. In any recording district in the Territory where land is conveyed by virtue of this power, the power should be recorded as well as the deed. It would, however, be necessary to record the power but once in any one recording district.

Very truly yours,

John B. Marshall

PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON
JAMES H. CONDIT
STATED CLERK

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S.A.

HEADQUARTERS
NO. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D.D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

February 21,1920

Mr. Varian Banks,

156 5th Avenue, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Banks:

In reply to your letter of December 30th in re sale of lots at Wrangell, would say:

I have no duplicate of the sketch which I sent you some time ago of the proposed lot subdivision. Also, it is impossible for me to secure amother at this time since we have no minister on the field to look after the matter. I do not have a blue print of the tract.

As to values of lots I have conferred with a business man of Wrangell, now in Juneau, who estimates that front lots, 50 x 150, on main street, ought to bring $250 each and that lots in the rear should bring one-half of that amount. This information, however, is of not much value without the plat of the ground.

There is no surveyor in Wrangell to do the work and it will be necessary to employ a man to go from Juneau. The cost will be about $15 per day for the surveyor and probably half that much for his helper. It would take approximately a week to do the work. It might take less time. I should add that the office work necessitated would cost at the rate of $1.00 per hour and I estimate that both field and office work would take in the neighborhood of a week. In addition the Board would have to pay transportation and subsistence. In other words I should estimate the cost of survey at in the neighborhood of $250.

I am enclosing the written opinion of Judge Marshall as to issuabce of deeds by the Treasurer in lieu of officer designated by the by laws of the corporation.

The first matter to be determined upon is the question of a survey. If the Board will authorize such survey I will engage a man at once to make the same and thus the Board as well as all would be purchasers will have a basis upon which to act in the shape of lot delineation, blue prints, etc. Such work can be undertaken at Wrangell very soon now on account of its early spring conditions.

I plan to leave my office here about the 22nd of March and will not return until in June. It would be advisable to have the matter of the survey arranged before I go, if possible, and there is time to receive word from you as to this provided there is no delay.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON
JAMES H. CONDIT
STATED CLERK

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S.A.

HEADQUARTERS
NO. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D.D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

November 11,1920

Mr. Varian Banks,

156 5th Avenue, New York.

Dear Mr. Banks:

I have received the following telegram from the Town Council of Wrangell:-

> "Natives presenting town with tribal relics. Council asking Board of Home Missions for unused portion church plat here for use as park. Commissioner Thomas recommends. Will you join?"

Enclosed is a copy of my reply.

The proposition to have this tract surveyed and such parts as are not needed in our work divided into town lots and sold has been before the Board for some time. I would like authority to proceed with this enterprise. It involves the hiring of surveyors and consequent expense. The sale of lots will take care of this expense in time but it also invdves assumption of preliminary expense and the advance of the necessary money. It will probably cost $300 to have this survey made. The sale of one lot would care for this.

Without conference I can not pass upon the merits of the request of the Wrangell Town Council that this ground be given to them for park purposes. On the face of it, however, I can not see why the Board should donate the ground for this purpose. It would seem only right that the Board should proceed to dispose of the part not needed in its actual work and use the proceeds for work in Alaska.

Under the conditions it becomes necessary to come to an immediate decision as to this Wrangell tract and I hope that I may have some definite instructions from you before I visit Wrangell which I plan to do between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Sincerely ypurs,

James H. Condit.

November 11,1920

Town Council,
Wrangell, Alaska.

Gentlemen:

I am in receipt of your telegram of the 9th inst., relative to the use of unused portion of mission plat for purpose of public park. As I understand it you have put this proposition before the Home Mission Board in New York and will doubtless receive word directly from the Financial Council as to this matter.

It had been the plan of the Board to subdivide such part of the mission tract as is not needed in actual mission work and dispose of it for residence purposes. This project is now actually under way and consideration. This was done in response to suggestions from citizens of Wrangell that such ground was needed in the natural growth of the town and also because the Board wishes to realize what it can from the sale to use in its mission work in Alaska which is quite extensive and which calls for large annual expenditures of money.

It is quite likely that I will be in Wrangell before the first of January and should the matter at that time still be under consideration I shall be glad to confer with you farther with respect to it.

Sincerely yours,

J. G. GRANT.
MAYOR

J. E. WORDEN.
CLERK

TOWN OF WRANGELL

INCORPORATED

COUNCILMEN

DONALD SINCLAIR — THOMAS DALGITY
NICHOLAS NUSSBAUMER — H. D. CAMPBELL
GEORGE H. BARNES — SAM'L CUNNINGHAM

Office of the
Clerk

WRANGELL, ALASKA, Nov. 27th. 1920.

To the Presbyterian Board of
Home Missions,
New York City, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

Please find enclosed petition signed by Chas.Jones, James Bradley, and Mrs.Geo.Blake,all full blood indians who desire to give up their tribal relations and customs and who also wish to have the Town of Wrangell take charge of all their old indian costumes etc.

The indian known as Chas.Jones is,according to indian customs,successor to the title of "Indian Chief" of the late "Chief Shakes," deceased.

There seems to be a strong desire to have the Town of Wrangell take over these indian belongings and also move the totem poles to some place where they will receive proper care.

The Mayor,as well as all the councilmen who are in Wrangell at the present time, are willing to accept this tribal property provided a suitable location can be secured without much expense,therefore have signed the enclosed petition asking for such part of the mission grounds as are not now in use.

Trusting that the request made will meet with the approval of the Board, and to hear from you in the near future, we are

Respectfully yours

Town Council of Wrangell

per

J. E. Worden

Clerk

US have patent dated June 1917 to 1 1/2 acres

C O P Y

Wrangell, Alaska. November 27,1920.

To the Presbyterian Board of
Home Missions,
New York City, N.Y.

Gentlemen:-

Please find enclosed petition signed by Chas. Jones, James Bradley and Mrs. Geo. Blake, all full blodd Indians who desire to give up their tribal relations and customs and who also wish to have the Town of Wrangell take charge of all their old Indian costumes,etc.

The Indian known as Chas. Jones, is, according to Indian customs, successor to the title of "Indian Chief" of the late"Chief Shakes",deceased.

There seems to be a strong desire to have the Town of Wrangell take over these Indian belongings and also move the totem poles to some place where they will receive proper care.

The Mayor, as well as all the councilmen who are in Wrangell at the present time, are willing to accept this tribal property provided a suitable location can be secured without much expense, therefore have signed the enclosed petition asking for such part of the mission grounds as are not now in use.

Trusting that the request made will meet with the approval of the Board, and to hear from you in the near future, We are

Respectfully yours,

Town Council of Wrangell,
per
(Signed)
J.E.Worden
Clerk.

C O P Y

P E T I T I O N

We, the undersigned, Mayor and Council of the Incorporated Town of Wrangell, Alaska, hereby petition the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church New York, N.Y. that a deed be made by said Board to the Town of Wrangell of the unused portion of the plat shown on enclosed townsite map as the property of the Presbyterian Church in Wrangell for use as a Public Park to display the totems and other antique symbols which have been presented publicly by the Thlinket Tribe of Alaskan Natives to the Town of Wrangell.

(Signed)

J.G. Grand, Mayor.

H.D. Campbell

Donald Sinclair

Samuel Cunningham

Thomas Dalgity

N. Nassbaum

C O P Y

P E T I T I O N

We, the undersigned, titulat Chief and people of the Thlinket Tribe of Alaskan Natives, determined to adhere to the flag of the United States and to discontinue our tribal relations, have presented to the Town of Wrangell, Alaska, all tribal belongings in the way of Totem Poles and other old time insignia, and hereby petition the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church to deed to the Town of Wrangell, the unused portion of the ten acre plat of town property, to be used as a Park for the preservation and exhibition of these relics of our Fathers.

(Signed)
Charlie Jones Chief of Thlinket Tribe

James Bradley

Mrs. Geo. Blake

December 1,1920.

In re: Wrangell, Alaska.

Rev. James H.Condit, D.D.,
Juneau, Alaska.

Dear Dr. Condit:-

I had occasion to refer to our files regarding the Wrangell property, and found therein your letter of February 21st which has never been answered. Attached to this letter I found the following memorandum, which I now recall writing at the time your letter was received,viz.,

> "In view of the coming east of Dr. Condit, this Wrangell property matter is laid aside pending opportunity to confer with Dr. Condit personally.
>
> VB".

I am, therefore, writing to say that after I had occasion to take up the subject matter of your letter of last February, you will understand why no reply was received. You will recall that when you were at this office I made the attempt to secure from you full information regarding the status of each property, but I was not only called to attend important Council meetings, but other matters so claimed my attention during the period that you were available, it was eventuated in my being unable to secure your help because of your limited stay in New York.

I note that the main question in your February letter was the one of survey. Possibly I have sufficiently answered this in a communication which has been sent you recently,i.e., that the Board will probably decline to take up any matter which involves the expenditure of money which can be deferred for the balance of this year at least.

I may add that in my letter to you of December 30,1919, to which letter, yours of February 21st, 1920, was the reply, I reported that the questions you had submitted in your previous letter would be submitted to our Finance Committee at its meeting

#2,J.H.C. December 1,1920.

held January 16th, 1920. This was done and action was taken at that time to the effect that authority would be given you to dispose of certain pieces of property to the citizens of Wrangell at a price commensurate with their values, and that you were authorized to have the necessary survey made to provide a definite and legal description of each lot included in the survey. This action, however, was taken at a time when the financial situation was quite different from that which confronts us now; the action taken by the Board at our last September meeting concerning the curtailment of expenditures so far as possible, automatically annuls the recommendation of our Finance Committee, above quoted.

Sincerely yours,

VB-aes Assistant Treasurer.

December 8th, 1920.

Wrangell, Alaska

Rev. James H. Condit, D.D.,
Juneau, Alaska.

Dear Dr. Condit:

A notice has just come from the Board of Church Erection stating that the grant of $3600. made by that Board towards erecting the manse building at Wrangell is about to expire and that such grant will be cancelled unless it is to be used within the comparatively near future.

I have advised Mr. Brauer, Treasurer, that due to the withdrawal of Mr. Clark, the erection of this building has been deferred and have requested him to have the grant extended for a few months until such time as a man can be secured to permanently occupy this field.

Will you let me know what the prospectis of placing a man at Wrangell permanently, in order that we may give to the Board of Church Erection a definite statement as to whether the building project will have to be abandoned for the present or that a grant will be needed within a short time.

Very sincerely yours,

VG WG

Assistant Treasurer

December 7th, 1920.

Re: Wrangell, Alaska Property

Rev. James H. Condit, D. D.,
Juneau, Alaska.

Dear Dr. Condit:

Enclosed you will find copy of letter received from J.E.Worden, Clerk of Town Council of Wrangell, Alaska, dated November 27th together with copies of the two petitions referred to therein. You will note that in the petitions signed by Charlie Jones and others of the Thlinket Tribe that the holdings of the Board in Wrangell are referred to as containing ten acres.

In the hope that I may be able to place the facts in your hands before you go to Wrangell, I also enclose descriptions taken from our property book as follows:

(A) - Quit Claim Deed from W.H.R.Corliss and wife, Emily G., June 12th, 1882 for a house and lot 200 x 200 ft.

(B) - Occupancy Right to Claim recorded at Sitka, March 7th, 1892 in Book A, page 298 for land 40 rods square.

(C) --U.S.Government Patent dated June 12th, 1917 to 7-80/100 acres, recorded October 1st, 1917 in Vol 6, D & M, at page 1, in records of Office of the U.S.Commissioner at Wrangell, Alaska

(D) - Occupancy Right to a tract of land 8-35/100 acres, which latter property may be included in the 10 acre plat of land referred to above under (B).

Before we take up the consideration of the application made by the Town Council of Wrangell, we will need to have the status of our holdings definitely and officially confirmed, so that we may know just what portion of our holdings is available for use outside of the mission requirements. I have understood that the patent which we now hold to 7-80/100 acres covers all the land to which we hold title. It seems, however, that the town officials at Wrangell have understood differently.

It is a question that needs careful consideration - whether the Board is warranted in giving favorable consideration to a request that the unused portion of the land at Wrangell be turned over to the Town Council for the purpose of having what, in effect, is an outdoor museum, if we understand the petition correctly. The use of a park for the people have have some advantages, but it would seem to me that if the Board is going to release its holdings to any extent the land had better be parceled into lots so that the natives may be encouraged to have separate homes of their own, especially if

any number of them are living in community houses.

As intimated in a previous letter, I will make no attempt to secure any action regarding this matter until we have your full report and mature judgment as to the action the Board should take regarding this petition and in what manner that portion of the land not required for mission use shall be disposed of.

Sincerely yours,

VB MG Assistant Treasurer

Enc.

PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

In re Wrangell Alaska

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON
JAMES H. CONDIT
STATED CLERK

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

HEADQUARTERS
NO. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

December 16, 1920.

Mr. Varian Banks,
156 Fifth Avenue, New York.

My dear Mr. Banks:

Your letter regarding Wrangell came to-day; Dr. Condit left for Wrangell yesterday. He has been traveling constantly since last March and would have postponed this visit until after holidays had it not been imperative that he be on the Wrangell field at once and I believe he has some interesting facts regarding this place, to communicate to you when he returns.

Cordially,

Mrs Jas. H. Condit.

PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON
JAMES H. CONDIT
STATED CLERK

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

HEADQUARTERS
NO. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

January 6,1921

Mr. Varian Banks,
156 5th Avenue,
New York.

Dear Mr. Banks:

On November 11th I received a telegram from the Town Council of Wrangel relative to a grant of land from the mission tract for park purposes with special reference to providing a place for totems and other Indian relics supposedly to be turned over to the Town of Wrangel.

With respect to this matter you have written me under dates November 27th, December 1st and December 7th.

I was in Wrangel from December 19th to December 22nd for the purpose of investigating this request of the Town Council. On Monday evening of my stay there I met with the Council in the Council Room and the matter was there discussed.

The following appears and was the basis of my expressing an adverse opinion as to granting the request:

1. There is no unanimity of opinion on the part of the natives as to turning over their totems and relics. The son of Chief Shakes who is a member of our Presbyterian Native Church told me that the Charles Jones who claims to be the successor of Old Chief Shakes is not his successor and has no right to barter away the tribal relics. He also declared that the natives had no intention of giving up their relics. Mrs. Tamaree, formerly Mrs. Tillie Paul, confirmed this and at least one of the totems in question belongs to her clan while the best of the relics belongs to the Shakes family of which George Shakes, above mentioned, is the present tribal head.

Therefore there is no need of providing a park for this purpose inasmuch as the totems and relics are not forthcoming.

2. If the totems were available the question arises as to this being a proper use of the ground under the conditions under which the ground was patented to the Board. Some of our older missionaries are of the opinion that it is undesirable to preserve such reminders of the old life and customs in close relation to our church and mission inasmuch as it has been our purpose to do away with the old life to which these things constantly point. While it is desirable to keep such things for their ethnological value to the white race, and in their proper place, it is a question whether they would not be a hindrance to the natives and especially in such close association with the church and mission.

Personally I have wondered, knowing the native "long headedness", whether this was not a cunningly devised scheme for the care and perpetuation of these old relics, now fast falling into decay, at the expense of the Board and Town of Wrangel.

3. If no such objection pertained the farther question arises as to

why the Board should donate this ground to the Town of Wrangel for this purpose, for it was made plain to me that there was no town fund available for the purchase of the same. There is a tract of ground belonging to the federal government ample for this use and no question but that it could be so employed.

In response to my suggestion that the totems be placed on this ground I was told that the town did not want to place them at the disposal of the federal government but wished to keep control of them as a town asset. And I strongly suspect that the town is think ng more of the value of such a park in attracting tourists than in doing away with old Indian custom.

4. Finally, I explained the purpose of the Board to plot into town lots and dispose of such portion of the ground, consisting of seven and 80/100 acres in all, (not 10 acres) as is not needed for mission purposes. This I put on the basis of the need for the ground in the town growth as well as the need of the Board to realize what it could for the ground in order to meet its obligations to the mission in general,and the building of a new manse in particular.

On the above showing I expressed my disinclination to recommend the granting of the petition of the Council and that I would so indicate to the Board from whom final word would come in reference to the matter.

It is my opinion that the Council does not much expect that the petition will be granted.

I note by your letter of December 1st that at the meeting of the Board of January 16th,1920, I was granted authority to proceed with the survey of the mission tract and to dispose of lots in accordance with previous request.

My files do not indicate that this authority was ever conveyed to me. Had I known of this action of the Board I would have had the survey completed before this and the request of the Town Council would have been headed off.

I regret very much that the present financial outlook is such as to make it unlikely that the Board will at this time confirm its action of January 16th. Under the circumstances I feel like urging that in view of the above facts the action be confirmed in so far that I may be allowed to proceed as indicated,viz, have the survey made and proceed to the sale of lots. As I have before stated the cost will be approximately $300.

Under my representations to the Town Council,which were made prior to the action of the Board,in a general way,by correspondence with Mr. Clark, our missionary, and which I made a definite part of my argument of recent date, the Board is committed to the policy of survey and sale of the unused portion of our tract. In good faith this can not be postponed without arousing adverse comment and criticism.

Sincerely yours,

James A. Grant

Wrangell, Alaska, June 7, 1921

Rev. Jeames H. Condit, D. D.,
Juneau, Alaska.

My dear Dr. Condit:

Your wire concerning the coming of Miss Voss was duly received, and we met her for fifteen minutes; just long enough to be of no value to anybody, unless merely to meet and say howdy. What a misfortune to all our work that our officials in both church and state must hurry so when Alaskan trips are in progress! We were indeed glad to meet the good lady, and we appreciate the fact that she really had to hurry along. No matters of business of any sort were, or could be, broached. It is the judgment of the locan men and women that the old manse is unusable and not fixable for residence. Considerable good materials therein will be used in the new structure. Next boat from the south will bring in estimate on doors, windows and the like, which must come from below. The house is modest in design and equipment, necessarily. If you cut off the study and large bedroom just back of it, also the room just overhead, also eliminating the heating plant, cement basement and fireplace from the Sitka manse, then run a porch across the front, you will have the plan we are trying to use here. Taking all materials so far available, at no profit to the contractor, we are still a hundred dollars above the appropriation of $3,800. Perhaps when we get the Seattle figures on doors and windows, casings, etc., we may be able to go ahead. We will come within the appropriation or not build. Too many people here have been living on credit for more than a year to undertake to pay anything on house now. They will do what they can on furnishings. The outlook is hopeful. I am much pleased with the place and the people. Dr. Young sees something e could not by any stretch of imagination conceive before among the Natives - the degradation and contemptuous indifference of the modern Native. I am glad he came. The accompanying town plat will be illuminating. After some digging I secured two. Will send exact location, by measurement, of new manse. It is not yet determined. Shall send plans, etc., as requested, as soon as they are made up.

No instructions awaited me here, hence the telegram of inquiry and your response. I could not make promises to pay certain sums at certain stages of the building program till I should definitely how where the money is to be drawn from. Doing business in the States and in Alaska are two quite different matters. A cess pool is not practicable on that hillside, the city authorities say. It will be a long way to get to the beach. We may have to cut out a bathroom on that account. The cesspool at the old McFarland home was a nuisance, the same as several others. There are no sewers except privately owned ones. City water will be piped to our house. It has not been before. We will do the best we can.

I have not yet sent any communication to the Board excepting my telegram announcing my arrival and inquiring about the manse appropriation. A copy of my report when made will be forwarded to you. I hope to get at it soon as we find out what we can do with the building project. We will have a comfortable and convenient house, though the absence of a basement will be felt. A wet hole under a house is not to be thought of, if I am to live over that hole. Nothing else is possible there without expensive cement work, and that is entirely out of the question. The halting boat service the last few weeks has kept us waiting long, but patience is a virtue, I have heard.

Give my kind regards to the family, and let me thank you again for the comfort and rest you afforded me while in your home. I needed it even worse than I had thought. Mild cases of flu are no joke, though mild they be.

Fraternally

(signed)- DIVEN

Copy

June 11,1921

Rev. R.J.Diven,D.D.,
Wrangell,
Alaska.

Dear Mr. Diven:

As you know,I expect to be away from this part of the country during the entire summer. It is not likely that I will be able to get back to my office much before the first of October.

Under date May 5th Dr. Patterson sent me a check for $3,785.75, which is the Wrangell manse grant less $14.25 for insurance premium. If I were to be here I would check against this amount at your instruction but I am not to be here and so think the best plan to follow is to place this money at your order. I would not want to do this in every instance, even in behalf of so good brethren as the Lord endows with the missionary spirit but in his infinite wisdom deprives of some other useful qualifications. We have men who dispense the gospel with fair success but who have never learned how to dispense the mammon of unrighteousness, if it is proper to so refer to money given to build manses with. In your hands this money will be used in a business like way and made to go as far as possible.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter to the B.M.Behrends Bank of this place authorizing them to pay out to the extent of $3,785.75,from the General Missionary Fund, on the following endorsement "James H. Condit, General Missionary, by R.J.Diven" "Wrangell Manse". Enclosed are Behrends check book and signature card for you to sign and return to the Bank for identification of your signature.

Also, please find enclosed Dr. Patterson's letter of May 5th. Will you please fulfil the requests which he makes as to the conduct of the business. I would like to have carbons of your communications to Dr. Patterson in so far as they embody reports of progress, etc. My mail after the 24th will reach me at Hotel Frye, Seattle, and be either forwarded or held there. This arrangement holds until my return to Seattle about September 15th.

Trusting that you may be able to make the scanty piece of cloth stretch over the pattern and with every good wish, I remain

Cordially yours,

James H. Condit

January 26th, 1922.

Re: Wrangell, Alaska Manse

Rev. Robert J. Diven, D.D.,
Wrangell, Alaska.

Dear Dr. Diven:

Yours of the 11th inst. to hand with which you enclosed a picture of your manse building. Your report with pictures attached was duly received and turned over to our Dr. Patterson who states that he acknowledged the pictures you originally sent. Evidently, his letter has in some way miscarried.

The little building is a very attractive one and certainly looks like a home. It would grace my greensward wherever it might be placed. When the grounds are cleared up I can readily imagine that you will take great pleasure and pride in your little home.

Sincerely yours,

VB MG [redacted] Treasurer

COPY.

Wrangell, Alaska.
August 17, 1922.

Rev. John Dixon, D.D.,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Dixon:

Inclosed is my carbon copy of my latest report to our General Missionary. After having it ready to send to our old friend at Juneau, it seemed to me that you and Mr. Banks might be interested and possibly informed by reading it too. When you have read and digested its contents, please, send it back to me for my file. If you have any questions to ask, let them come without hesitation.

Regarding the attached statement and receipted bills, Mr. Banks will recall that he asked me to send them in about the latter part of August. Just what disposition he might be able to make of them he was not able to say at the time of his passing northward. As I then explained to him, so I repeat here. The property was going to ruin through neglect. The people did not feel warranted in taking the initiative lest they be assessed with the bills, which they would be utterly unable to pay. They knew they were not eligible to create bills for the Board to pay. I told the General Missionary that I would have the work done if I could find a way to do it without creating a lot of local bills. This church, and more especially some others in Alaska, has been cursed with the slovenly and unbusinesslike methods of men once in charge. Bills were created for which no definite plans could be formulated to make payment. That cannot occur under my ministry. Such determination is a part of my religion.

Well, the G.M. said to go ahead and do it someway. It is now done. Mr. T. C. Havens, to whom I hope you will write a nice letter of appreciation, is the painter and paperhanger who did the work. He is a member of my church. He offered to do the work and wait for his pay till some of the superfluous mission

land in Wrangell is sold. I said I would put up the money for the materials needed, also have all other work not in his line done and pay for it. He was to secure the materials needed in his line at cost, through one of the local stores. That is why such bills bear his name. I made payment and have the checks as my vouchers. This money of mine is money that will be needed by December first, to apply on life insurance. It has been an immense pleasure to put it to work in this way during the summer. It will be another immense pleasure to get it back by the time it is needed. It was the only way in sight to get the old church properly renovated, and it was a disgrace to the denomination as it stood. (Just here may I suggest that you make it a part of the G. M.'s business to see that some lazy preacher doesn't lie down on his job and let his buildings rot beneath his feet and over his head. My predecessor was expecting the crack of doom any minute, though, and maybe he felt that it would not be needed. Here's one church where the pre-Mil. theory did its deadly work in find shape. Pardon the disgression, but you may as well have a taste of what we get as regular diet up here -- sometimes.)

Paint used on outside of church - - - - - -	$57.90		
Carpenter work	33.00		
Shingling tower	5.00		
New lumber (much old material was used)	2.70	$98.60	
Paper and paint used inside	87.54		
Repairing seats	3.00		
Change in lighting	5.50		
Window shades and fixtures	22.80		
Heating apparatus	42.50	$161.34	$259.94*Diven

T.C.Haven, Wrangell, Alaska. Painting outside 72.35
Painting and hanging paper inside 168.00 240.35*Havens
Total $500.29

Cordially and fraternally,

(Signed) Robert Joseph Diven.

Havens did not charge full rates for work.

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August 17, 1922.

Rev. John Dixon, D.D.,
New York, N. Y.

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Total $500.29

Cordially and fraternally,

(Signed) Robert Joseph Diven.

Havens did not charge full rates for work.

Re: Wrangell, Alaska

September 25th, 1922

Rev. S. Hall Young, D.D.
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Dr. Young:

In a letter sent to Dr. Dixon by Dr. Diven of Wrangell the latter wrote that you had authorized him to go ahead with the repairs on the Wrangell Church. At the time you gave these instructions where did you expect the money to come from if not out of the Alaskan budget.

You, doubtless, are well fortified now in the matter of avoiding the incurring of any obligation either on your own part or through recommendations made to the brethren in Alaska in repairs to property until the Board shall have had opportunity to consider the matter and the official consent is given.

As stated in my recent letter to you the Executive Council went just as far as they could in approving the expenditures which you had made in advance of receiving the Board's consent and I tried to make it clear then that the Council would not recommend to the Finance Committee in the future the meeting of such obligations. I know, personally, the pressure put upon you and that it is hard to say no when a case full of merit is brought to your attention, requiring the expenditure of a sum with which to make a building safe or the property in question livable. You need, however, to realize that for this year at least, and until the Board's finances are in an entirely different condition we cannot assume additional obligations outside of the total of the current budget. I believe that the Board will in the future follow the present year's policy that when once a sum is allocated to a Presbytery it will be their privilege to disburse that total in such ways as will meet conditions that may arise, and as I think I made clear to you and the Home Mission Committee during that delightful period of conference we had, items that are not included in the budget can be cared for providing the total amount does not exceed the budgeted sum.

Now in the letter of Dr. Diven he presents a total account of $500.29 almost double what I was given to understand was the required sum when I made that short visit to Wrangell. The memorandum I have in my book reads "Board asked to advance the sum of approximately $275. to liquidate all bills incurred in behalf of Wrangell Church; this sum to be reimbursed from the proceeds from the sale of lots located on the north and west of Church." I mention this incident to show how these repair accounts grow without warning. I know that every dollar that has been spent in Wrangell has been wisely and economically administered by Dr. Diven and I will cheerfully submit the matter to our Finance Committee with as strong a recommendation as I can that this sum of $500.29 be advanced as against possible sale proceeds.

Finally, I think it would be well for you to send a general

letter to every missionary in Alaska quoting a letter on this subject which I will enclose. I am recommending this action on your part in view of the excellent suggestion made by Dr. Diven in his letter to Br. Dixon which reads:

> "Just here may I suggest that you make it a part of the G.M.'s business to see that some lazy preacher doesn't lie down on his job and let his buildings rot beneath his feet and over his head. My predecessor was expecting the crack of doom any minute, though, and maybe he felt that it would not be needed. Here's one Church where the pre-Mil. theory did its deadly work in fine shape. Pardon the digression, but you may as well have a taste of what we get as regular diet up here -- sometimes."

I am also confirmed in my judgment that it would be both wise and desirable for you to send a general letter to all the missionaries who have charge of the Board's property because of the possible feeling of any of them, as exemplified in the case of Denton at Haines, that they are not expected to trouble themselves about the Board's property interests unless specifically requested to do so. We must have the fullest cooperation of our men in this connection and instead of waiting until an urgency arises by which some one assumes the responsibility for incurring bills of more or less considerable size, we should have the condition of the property reported as soon as the need is known that we may have opportunity, at least, to "stop the leak" before it becomes serious. It is true, as I fully appreciate, that sometimes these matters are referred to the Board in ample time and that favorable response is not given and that sometimes the matter lies in abeyance until the urgency is too great to be longer delayed. This, of course, is due to want of funds but because such situations have arisen in the past we should not fail to carry out the better plan of "taking time by the forelock."

I know that I need not ask for your hearty cooperation along these lines.

Very sincerely yours,

VB MG Treasurer

Wrangell, Alaska, Oct. 3, 1922.

Mr. Varian Banks,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Banks:-

Your good letter came in the late mail. Allow me to congratulate you on making the first real business trip yet made by any member of our much loved and sincerely esteemed Home Mission Board. From what I hear from the few men thus far reporting on matters, you have put new life and hope into the hearts and energies of the men on the fields. You now know how difficult it is to make people in the east visualize conditions and needs, especially in a region where fields are individual rather than typical in character. No two fields up here are exactly alike, and between some fields there are yawning chasms of natural and unavoidable difference. Such things must be seen to be understood, and no man, hoever keen he may be to scent conditions, can hope to accomplish much by casual conferences with workers in the midst of the hurry and confusion of an Alaska dock scene in summer months. Again I congratulate you on making your trip a strictly business trip instead of a well-meant, sympathetic, friendly junket to sort of cheer up the fellows. Come again, and make provision for a few days sight-seeing and we'll make good on all that scenery stuff we sandpapered you with. I'm sure you didn't think for a minute that I meant to wound your feelings. I just did what the local, very kindly disposed ladies told me to do, and they shall have the benefit of your good letter. The original invitation stands unchanged; it is merely renewed and emphasized. I hope the Board will yield to your counsel in regard to the money situation.

Very cordially,

Diven.

November 1st, 1922.

Re: Wrangell, Alaska

Rev. Robert J. Diven, D.D.
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Dr. Diven:

Herein his check to your order for $500.29 to repay you for that amount which you have advanced, or is still due, for repairs made sometime since on the Wrangell Church building. This amount is advanced by the Board as a special case, and is to be returned to our Treasury from the proceeds from sale of lots at Wrangell.

I had a letter a day or two ago from Dr. Young in which he stated that Judge Thomas had a possible proposition from some one to purchase a goodly portion of that part of the property which would not be required in your work. I hope that in order to take care of this advance some sales can be made in the near future.

At this writing, I am not sure that we have, where we can lay out hands on it, a blue print of the Wrangell property which it is proposed that we sell. I will write you later more definitely on this.

I trust that the enclosed payment will clean up every item to date and that the whole property now is free from any encumbrance whatever.

It is my hope that this sum will reach you in time to permit of your paying your insurance premium which comes due December 1st next.

Sincerely yours,

VB MG Treasurer

Enc.

November 9th, 1922.

Re: Wrangell, Alaska

Rev. R. J. Diven, D.D.,
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Dr. Diven:

I cannot seem to find any blue-print or data on record here which indicates that the Wrangell property has been surveyed and platted into lots, although as previously advised, I am inclined to think that such a blue print is in existence. Possibly you have a copy of it. If so, will you send me your copy by registered mail and I will have an extra copy or two made of it and return it to you for your own guidance.

I think we need record as to the size and location of each lot before we begin to negotiate any sales. Just what the proposition is that Judge Thomas has in mind, referred to by Dr. Young in a recent letter, and mentioned to you in my letter of the 1st inst., I, of course, do not know. If anything definite is before you kindly let me know at the earliest possible moment. I will need to have specific action taken by our Finance Committee and, in turn, by the Board itself in order to carry out any sales.

Yours sincerely,

VB MG Treasurer

Wrangell,Alaska,Dec.15,1922.

Mr.Varian Banks,
New York,N. Y.

My dear Mr.Banks:-

Ever since your letter came asking for a plat of Wrangell your order has been in for one. The local store that handled them is sold out. Dr.Patterson should have the one I sent him a year ago. I sent one to him and one to Dr.Condit at that time. Condit's copy is now in hands of Doctor Young,who just now sits in my study. We dedicated the old church last Sunday. It had never been formally dedicated - 43 years old;a case of adult baptism, one might say. Very glad the old Doctor could be here to do that bit of work. The plat will go forward as soon as one can be procured. We'll surely be able to sell enough of the property to return the money you so kindly secured from the Board for the old church. Toward spring would be a better time for such sales,for just now everything is still and everybody is trying to figure just how to stretch the funds in hand to cover the winter's needs. If the prospective developments take place near here,then things will brighten locally,for a while at least.

Am very sorry to hear of Doctor Dixon's leaving the office. That pretty nearly leaves it up to you to steer Alaskan interests there,doesn't it? Knowledge of Alaska is hard to disseminate in the far eastern States - used to be so,at least.

Best wishes for the Christmas and New Year.

Fraternally,

Robert Joseph Dixon

PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

HEADQUARTERS
NO. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
REV. S. HALL YOUNG, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

Dec. 16, 1922.

Varian Banks, Treas.,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York, N.Y.

Re Wrangell

Dear Mr. Banks;-

I have just returned from a weeks visit at Wrangell where I dedicated the old Mother Church on the 10th of Dec. I am writing this long delayed dedication for the Presbyterian Magazine.

I interviewed Dr. Diven and Judge Thomas in regard to the sale of lots conveying to them your wish that they would, if possible, sell enough property before April 1st to replace the sum you advanced. Judge Thomas thinks that this can be arranged. They have placed the value of $400 per lot on the front lots, and if they cannot sell to outsiders Judge Thomas and Mr. Barnes, another of the Elders, think of buying two lots in order to set the pace and secure purchasers for the others.

The church as repaired and decorated is very beautiful outside and in. I am sending, with my article to the Presbyterian Magazine, an interior view and also a view of Wrangell, which includes the church and manse; and when the magazine is through with these pictures you can get the cuts or photographs from them.

By the way, what did you do with the three photographs of myself which I sent with you requesting that cuts be made of them?

I have not heard from you concerning my account of $13.60 traveling expenses for Oct. It was made out Oct 31st. There was no expense account for Nov.

Sincerely yours,

S Hall Young

January 11th, 1923.

Re: Wrangell, Alaska

Rev. Robert J. Diven, D.D.,
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Dr. Diven:

It is quite possible that you did not misunderstand my reference in letters sent you referring to our need for a plat ~~of~~ the Wrangell property, but there is a possibility there is a misapprehension in your mind, because of the fact that in your letter to me of December 15th you refer to plats heretofore handled by the local store, their stock of which has been sold out. I am not concerned so much about the plat of Wrangell as I am of a proper survey and plat of our property divided into lots so that we can formally file that plat with the proper town authorities which will enable us to make reference to the particular piece of land sold in accordance with the plat so filed.

I seem to recall that at one time we had a blue print of that portion of the property at Wrangell which the Board did not require in its work in connection with which it was recommended that lots be sold at a price based on the valuation of the land at that time, but such a plat cannot be found in our files I regret to say.

What we will need is a couple of blue prints of the proposed portion of the land which the Property Committee at Wrangell is ready to recommend for sale, with the location and bounds of each lot, properly numbered, designated thereon. The Board, of course, will need this detailed information in order to give a deed to the parcel selected by the purchaser. Then too, with such plat there should come from your Committee, which in this case really means you, a recommendation as to the price we should ask for each parcel. We will, of course, rely upon your judgment as to the desirability of limiting the size of each lot. In such case a proposed purchaser could have two lots if one was not sufficient for his needs.

I do not want to be understood as pressing the sales merely to reimburse the Board for the amount which was recently sent you in anticipation of these sales. You will, of course, agree with me that to sell at what one might term a forced sale would be poor economy if by waiting a few months longer a considerable increase in price could be obtained. We must have in mind, therefore, that there is a time limit within which sales should be made. We will depend upon the recommendations made by yourself and Judge Thomas in considering offers which you may receive and any other matters connected therewith.

Dr. Marquis will conduct all correspondence with the brethren in Alaska concerning the work itself and future policies. I hope that I

will be able to give no little assistance in these matters because of the illuminative, though limited, facts I obtained during my brief visit last summer. On questions of property, however, correspondence may be addressed to me.

Very sincerely yours,

VB MG Treasurer

P.S.- I should have made it clear that correspondence concerning the finances or the properties of the Board may be addressed to me.

June 12th, 1923.

Re: Wrangell, Alaska property

Rev. R. J. Diven, D.D.,
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Dr. Diven:

Just a line to ascertain what the situation is regarding the Wrangell property, with special reference to prospective sales.

I am led to make this inquiry now for the reason that in anticipating the consolidation of the several Boards which constitute the new Board of National Missions, you can readily understand how desirable it is to clean up all the odds and ends so as to go into the new Board with as few unadjusted items as is possible. We are still holding in a special account the amount which was sent you after my return from Alaska last summer on account of repairs to the buildings which you had personally advanced. It was my hope that by this time some sales could be made which would bring in a sufficient amount, at least, to liquidate this advance.

I appreciate full well that people cannot be made to buy, and that we must await the demand before we can dispose of that part of the property which is not required for the work under your care. I assume that as active steps as possible have been taken looking towards the sale of lots, and that the Property Committee, of which you are Chairman, has agreed upon a price to be asked for each of the lots set apart for sale. As no progress has been reported, I, of course, understand that no progress has been made in the matter of sales.

Will you please advise me what the prospects are for disposing of some of the property.

Yours sincerely,

VB MC [illegible] Treasurer

Wrangell, Alaska, June 19, 1923.

Mr. Varian Banks,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Banks:-

Your letter in re Wrangell property at hand this morning.

We did our best to sell lots, but the opening of the road now being built by the Government gave opportunity for prospective builders to stake and develop lots outside the corporate limits, at no cost whatsoever except their labor. That gave an outlet for at least a dozen prospective and possible buyers of lots. It temporarily stalled the real estate market in Wrangell.

However, the city school is just now taking over the Native school property, which was originally carved out of our holdings, and as that property is to be used for high school purposes and is in ideal relations to our salable holdings we are looking with hope toward selling the whole tract available to the city. We'd far better sell at half what it should bring in lots than to fool with surveys, plots, lots and streets etc. etc., which consume so much time and waste so much money. Depend upon it, we are not asleep on this matter. It has worried me not a little. But, as you say, we cannot make people buy; nor would it have been wise to sacrifice the most salable lots. They are the key to a possible sale to the city. Without them, a sale for school purposes would be hopeless.

Cordially yours,

Robert Dwight Divine

Wrangell, Alaska, May 13, 1925.

Dear Montgomery:

Here is our Committee's recommendation of the sale of the Wrangell church land, with description of the portion to be deeded to Messrs. Gurr and Gartley and so on.

We had to wait a long time to get a real surveyor, and when he got here he was separated from his drafting instruments and so had to offer me merely a pencil sketch of the tract. I am, however, sending the Board a city plat, which shows the entire tract, some of whose lines are not exact, as is narrated in the accompanying letter. The surveyor is an old Alaskan and rated a first-class artist in his line. Read everything over carefully and turn over to the proper authorities.

Urge as prompt action as possible, for these men would like to get to work to spend a lot of money in clearing and building streets, in an early effort to get some lots sold. It will be a fine thing for the little town if they can sell several lots, but I think they are showing a deal of courage in undertaking what they are. Gartley, of course, has at his command the lumber to help folks build homes, and Gurr is running the bank and can doubtless help people borrow cash to build with. Wire me, collect, as soon as the deed is mailed, so the men can get busy clearing the ground. Most of it is a jungle, you know.

Hastily and with best wishes.

Very truly,

Diven

Wrangell Alaska

DESCRIPTION OF WRANGELL MISSION TRACT TO BE DEEDED TO A.E.CURR AND E.W.CARTLEY, jointly, both of Wrangell, Alaska. Mr.Curr is cashier of the Wrangell branch of The Bank of Alaska. Mr.Cartley is manager of The Willson and Sylvester Sawmill Company, of Wrangell. The survey was made by U.S.Deputy Surveyor, H.I.Crowther and was completed on May 18, 1935. Mr.Crowther's certification is attached hereto. Also there is attached a pencil sketch of the entire Presbyterian Mission tract, showing portion to be deeded as well as Residual Tract; also showing proposed Community Building site. The portion above the Residual Tract is very steep, rocky, and covered with scrub timber and brush. The portion northeast of the Residual Tract is boggy, shading off into a slope, all covered with scrub growth except the small portion along the street. It all lies within the corporate boundaries of the town of Wrangell, Alaska. In this survey just made, all lines have been definitely established and properly marked by stone monuments at all corners. The fence between the manse and the Catholic church is on the Xxxxx Tiber side, but I shall convert it to full Protestant standing very promptly. Also we discovered that one of my unchurchly neighbors had a chicken house projecting over onto my domain to the extent of two feet. Being in good standing with that neighbor, he promptly sawed two feet off the end of his chicken house, at my kindly suggestion. Another old neighbor, a Frenchman and a Catholic, got his building a bit catawampus, long years ago, and now we discover that the thickness of his side wall at one end, is on the Residual Tract. He says he will turn his house around, shortly. There is no need for haste in his case, for his encroachment is on the Residual Tract alone, while the chicken house encroached on the portion we are selling and had to be cleared of all possible cause for dispute. The way is all clear under the law. I thank God we have an offer on the abominable encumbrance, and pray that in His great mercy you may not be permitted to rest by night or by day till the deed of transfer is issued. You will recall that our Committee was authorized to find a buyer for this land, either in whole or in part, two years ago. Such a fiddling experience as we have had! We had a dozen folks talking "purchase," but no real buyers. I did not dare authorize the survey till we had something alive on the hook. I knew it would cost a tidy penny to run the lines over such a bit of scenery as this and plant rock monuments al all Residual corners and put proper rock markers at all other corners. It did. The surveyor's services and the labor of his two helpers, local men, amounted to $190.00. I am paying the bill in full, though to do so makes my exchequer look like less than the proverbial thirty cents. If by any inconceivable mischance you shall turn this proposition down, my comfort and happiness will, of course, be made complete: I shall be absolved from ever again so much as looking at a bit of "special privilege" in the name of the church; for that is the color in which the generality of people regard this sort of thing. And now for the description:

Beginning at N.W.corner of original Presbyterian Mission site (marked by a cross on a granite boulder 4ft by 2½ft and showing one foot above ground and marked P.M.); thence S.65° 55' E. a distance of 79.80ft to another original corner of P.M.Site (marked by a cross on a granite boulder 2ft by 1½ft and showing one foot above ground); thence N.24° 24'E. a distance of 97.86ft to another original corner of P.M.Site (marked by a cross on a granite stone 12' by 8' and showing five inches above ground);

thence S.67* 12'E. a distance of 683ft to an original corner of P.M. Site(marked by a cross on a granite boulder 4ft by 3ft and showing 1½ft above ground); thence S.23* 03'W. a distance of 301.73ft to a cross on a granite stone 12' by 9' and showing 3' above ground,identical with N.E.corner of U.S.School Reserve; thence N.64* 20'W. along N.W.boundary of U.S.School Reserve a distance of 208.30ft to original corner of P.M. Site and U.S.School Reserve(marked by a cross on a granite stone 10' by 9' and showing 3' above ground); thence S.23* 10'W. along N.W.boundary of U.S.School Reserve a distance of 208.16ft to a cross on a slate stone 12' by 7' and showing 3' above ground and marked "U.S.S.R.",on line of N. boundary of Church Street; thence N.66* 51' 30"W. along N.boundary of Church Street 175.51ft to a cross on a granite stone 15' by 8' and showing 3' above ground; thence N.23* 18'E. a distance of 110ft to a cross on granite stone 22' by 16' flush with the ground; thence N.66* 51' 30"W. a distance of 84ft to a cross on a granite stone 10' by 8' and showing 2' above ground; thence N.23* 18'E. a distance of 141.73ft to a cross on a granite stone 12' by 9' and showing 2' above ground; thence N.66* 42'W. along South Side of Reid Street(extended) a distance of 303.46ft to intersection with original N.W.boundary of P.M.Site; thence N.25* 09' 30"E. along said original N.W. boundary a distance of 146.80ft to the place of beginning. Containing 5.434 acres,~~xxxxxxxxxxxxx~~.*(I'd put more or less in there if I were drawing the deed. But,perhaps that goes into all eastern deeds anyway.R.J.D.)

As to method of payment for this tract:

"Messrs Curr and Gartley "offer to pay one thousand dollars down on receipt of deed,and secure the remaining eight hundred by either a note for one year,bearing interest at eight per cent.,and endorsed by any responsible person or persons I may select; or a note signed by the two purchasers,payable on or before one year from date,with interest at eight per cent.,with the understanding that fifty per cent. of the proceeds from the sale of any ground sold be applied on the payment of the eight hundred dollar note,and the balance of such receipts to be expended in improving the property. The note,however,to be paid in full within one year's maturity,regardless of the above conditions. The gentlemen would prefer the latter plan for payment,but will meet either one of these plans that you may elect. "

Judge William G.Thomas and Rev.David Waggoner authorized me to attach their names as signatories of this recommendation for the sale of the above described piece of property. They,with myself,constitute the Committee on Mission Lands in this Presbytery.

Very truly uours,
Robert Joseph Diven,
William G.Thomas
David Waggoner.

Robert Joseph Diven

BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

JOSEPH DUNN BURRELL, PRESIDENT
HERBERT K. TWITCHELL, VICE-PRESIDENT
H. N. MORSE, SECRETARY
VARIAN BANKS, TREASURER

May 25th, 1925.

To the members of the Finance Committee,
Board of Home Missions.

Dear Sirs: Re: Property at Wrangell, Alaska

In 1922 the Board approved the sale of such portion of the land owned by the Board in Wrangell, Alaska, as not required either at the present time, or prospectively, in the work at that place, the sale to be made when a satisfactory offer is obtained. Our holdings in Wrangell consist of 7.81 acres, title to which was received from the U.S.Government.

I saw this property in July 1922 during my visit to Alaska; Dr. Montgomery recently returned from a trip to Alaska which included a visit to Wrangell. We both heartily recommend the acceptance of the following offer, submitted by Dr. Diven on behalf of the Committee on Mission Lands in Alaska Presbytery consisting of Dr. Robert J. Diven, Chairman, Judge William G. Thomas, an elder in the Wrangell Church, and Rev. David Waggoner, Field Missionary of the Board in Alaska, of $1800., viz:

> Messrs. A. E. Gurr and H. W. Gartley, offer to pay $1000. down on receipt of deed, and secure the remaining $800. by either a note for one year, bearing interest at 8%, and endorsed by any responsible person or persons I may select; or a note signed by the two purchasers, payable on or before one year from date, with interest at 8%, with the understanding that 50% of the proceeds from the sale of any ground sold be applied on the payment of the $800. note, and the balance of such receipts to be expended in improving the property. The note, however, to be paid in full within one year's maturity, regardless of the above conditions. The gentlemen would prefer the latter plan for payment, but will meet either one of these plans that you may elect.

The purchasers propose to erect on the portion to be sold, a community building which is being backed by the members of the Wrangell Presbyterian Church.

There is very littlecall for home sites in Wrangell and this opportunity to sell land which the Board will never use, to be used for a purpose which is in full harmony with the work of the church is an unusual one and the above-mentioned Committee strongly urges, in the interest of all concerned, the acceptance of the offer now received.

A survey of the land was recently made by U.S.Deputy Surveyor H.P.Crowther, completed on the 12th inst., at a cost of $190. which

amount will need to be taken from the sale being made.

I may add that Dr. Diven is probably our outstanding missionary in Southeastern Alaska; he is Chairman of the National Missions Committee of the Presbytery, a man of good judgment and is able to see beyond the confines of Alaska which latter attribute is rare in our Alaskan missionaries.

I may further add that the Board is carrying in its accounts an expense of something like $300. which was incurred about three years ago in repairing the manse at Wrangell, the cost of which was to be taken out of the proceeds from a prospective sale.

In harmony with the policy adopted by the Board, the proceeds from the sale of property owned by the Board through U.S. Patent will be used for the benefit of the work either in Wrangell or elsewhere in Alaska.

If you approve of this sale, will you kindly so indicate on the blank form below.

Very truly yours,

Lamar Bank

VB : MG Treasurer

APPROVED:

John T. Marsden

Member of Finance Committee

NATIONAL MISSIONS

REV. ROBERT JOSEPH DIVEN, D. D., CH., WRANGELL, ALASKA
REV. GEORGE G. BRUCE, D. D., JUNEAU, ALASKA
REV. GEORGE G. BECK, HOONAH, ALASKA
REV. DAVID WAGGONER, JUNEAU, ALASKA

PRESBYTERY
OF ALASKA

REV. DAVID WAGGONER,
BOX 964, JUNEAU, ALASKA
STATED CLERK AND TREASURER

REV. DAVID WAGGONER,
FIELD MISSIONARY,
JUNEAU, ALASKA

Wrangell, Alaska, May 30, 1925.

RECEIVED JUN 8 1925

Mr. Varian Banks,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Banks:

Your letter of May 21 in re Wrangell property transfer at hand. Though it is Saturday and I have not only the regular services to-morrow but the Memorial sermon to preach, I shall try to make reply so it can go forward to you on the early southbound boat:

First permit me to thank you for the clear instructions as to how such transactions are to be handled in the future. So many little details have been lacking, in so many matters pertaining to the new Board operations, that some of us at a distance have been moving in a measure of foggy uncertainty. We have been trying to do what seemed proper, so far as conformity to orderliness was attainable. Many things in Alaska, however, will be rather out of joint with the hard-and-fast regulations of your orderly and regular States methods. The reasons should be obvious to anybody who has any understanding of the very irregular conditions in which we do most of our work.

Permit me to thank you, in the second place, for your kindly interest in consummating the sale we now have before us. If this sale does not go through, we are very likely to find ourselves confronted with a large bill for new street improvements; a bill which will be about equal to the sum we expect to realize from the present sale of land; at least equal to what we would get at a forced sale. A commission is right now re-valuing all lots and lands in Wrangell, with a view to bonding, in order to secure money for a new school building and additional water storage. Our land lies in the way of certain city improvements which will be ordered sooner or later, and they have a right in the case to condemn, go through, and make us pay our share according to rules and laws already operating in the Territory and the town.

We are sure to have a big enough street assessment to meet, at best. The small remainder of our property that will still be salable should cover that. I thought it wise to hold to the lot originally designed to be proffered to the City for a community building. Also lots abutting on our back lot, which will face the street now about to be built on the hillside above us. I am trying my best to safeguard our Board's interests, and with me I have the more or less valuable judgements of Judge Thomas, the other local member of our sales Committee.

But, as must be apparent to you, for you have been in Alaska for a few days at least and should have imbibed some of the grim facts of our inconvenient location and embarrassing business methods, the incurring of such a bill as was made necessary for surveying had to be assumed by somebody who could and would do it, and do it promptly. To

have waited for specific order to have the survey made, after having been advised, counselled and urged to get a buyer and get everything ready for orderly and legal transfer of lands not necessary to us, would have thwarted the sale now pending. The old lines were not what you could have used in making deeds. We had to make survey to satisfy prospective purchasers, and they are not so eager to get the land that they cannot be discouraged by any unnecessary delay in making everything right and ready. Hence my assuming the bill of $190.00 and paying same. (Find bill inclosed, receipted by the surveyor.) If there is any quibble over that bill by the new men in the Board, just tell them to let it go; the missionary has lost several times that amount in trying to stay by the work and get something done, during the last twenty-five years. In this circumstance, however, I would certainly have to insist on being immediately relieved from any further part or responsibility pertaining to mission properties and business in Alaska. I am getting too far along in years to involve myself in any further personal outlay, like I did in both Oregon and Sitka, in order to stay with the work, even though it is the work in which I hope to end my active ministry - all of which is said most kindly and sincerely.

Now, please tell me: Did or did not the Board withhold from the Alaskan Presbytery appropriation, in a recent year, the sum of five hundred dollars to cover the loan that was made to the Wrangell church for repairs? Waggoner, Young and Bruce each say it did. That that bill is settled. It is clear to me that you do not so regard it, and I want the facts and figures, because I am the man who was authorized by both Doctor Young and yourself in person to go ahead and do the work. I do well recall, too, the glowing assurances locally of transfer of enough of the land to cover said bill, and that the prospects so glowingly put before me were like several other things emanating from the same source. Throughout the entire term of my service there has never been any such situation arisen. I feel embarrassed by it. The business of Presbytery was handled by Waggoner, Bruce and Doctor Young, and I have at hand no details except their assurance that the five hundred dollars was set over to cancel our bill, as stated above. You can give me the details and assurance I lack. What you say will be from the business man's angle and should be satisfactory and final, so far as I am concerned. If that money has not been returned as was reported to me, then, of course, it should come out of the moneys we are expecting soon to receive from sale of this pestiferous special privilege property.

All moneys shall be sent direct to you. I have no heart in the ancient quibble of some of my brethren about sending money back to New York and then back to Alaska. If that is the proper procedure, then none other will satisfy me. Autocratic action in any of these matters is farthest from my taste or desire. When the surveyor returns to plat the land we are selling, getting it ready for sale in lots, I hope I may prevail on him to draw me a little sketch of more presentable sort than the one so hastily made and forwarded.

I note also what you say concerning property correspondence. A carbon sheet often saves much repetition. I am not using it in this case,however,for there is nothing in this letter pertaining to aught but the reply to your good communication referred to. I shall follow your advice.

Yes,here is a matter I spoke to Doctor Montgomery about: When some bit of work has to be done,such as making repairs etc.etc.,for which provision has been made,it takes from thirty to fifty days to get the blanks into the hands of the church and the Committee. Why in reason cannot the office of the Committee be supplied with blanks such as must be used in these cases,so that all the painful,and sometimes fatal,delay can be eliminated? If the Kasaan blanks had been in my hands,or blanks we could have used for that field,everything would have been in the office in New York weeks ago. The blanks are somewhere between here and where Dave Waggoner is,and will go on to New York as soon as he can supply(above my signature) certain data that nobody in the world but Dave could supply when the blanks arrived here a week ago. Some of the new forms are strangers to me,I having never seen or handled them till in recent months,since coming on to the Committee as its chairman. Certain details are called for that cannot be given, in several instances,for our Native churches are not incorporated and should not be till the Natives are farther along in their fitness to handle such matters. The Committee feels embarrassed(I do at least, as a member,)in having to forward such vacant-looking application blanks. The Board already holds all the property on which the old buildings are standing,so far as I can learn,also the sites on which all proposed new structures are to be erected.

Special privileges were demanded by the American Legion in the proposed Community Building,so the deal is off,indefinitely and I hope permanently. I would not accept any special concessions for us as donors of the land,neither will I consent to special privileges being given to any other society that may try to hitch up in a community effort. I believe in real community endeavor. However,it was not my attitude that dissipated the movement;all other organisations took the same position without having heard my convictions till they had expressed theirs. So the Legion withdrew. I shall not be surprised if they come and ask for the lot for themselves,but I will not favor any such move. They have not sufficient business about them as a local order to put through anything of importance whatsoever,and I do not care to locate a dance-hall and place for prize-fights beside our old church - which would surely be what would eventuate if they were to go ahead under present impulses.

Very truly yours,

Robt Goetchius Dixon

In 1[illegible] when I was in Alaska certain urgent and necessary repairs were made on the Wrangell manse without specific authority from the Board, as Dr. Diven simply had to remedy the trouble instanter.

I approved of this expense with the understanding that the amount of such repairs and improvements on the Wrangell Church and manse would be taken out of such proceeds as we might receive from sale of that portion of the property in Wrangell not required by the Board. This expense amounted to $500.29. It would appear that this amount, in the year 1923-24 was carried into the current account and charged to Alaska Presbytery.

Now that the unrequired portion of the Wrangell property has been sold it is necessary that we reimburse ourselves for this expense by taking this amount out of [illegible] which we expect to receive on account of this sale, and in addition the $19[illegible] now being paid on account of the survey of the Wrangell property.

This means that when the $1[illegible] comes in it should be credited in two amounts -

$500.29 Surplus & Deficit Account to reimburse ourselves for the charge to the current work account in 1923-24 account of Wrangell, Alaska property sale

439,71 to be carried to the credit of the Wrangell Alaska, Property Sale.

Varian Banks

June 8th, 1925.

Rev. A. J. Diven, D.D.,
Wrangell,
Alaska

Re: Property at Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Dr. Diven:

My attention has been called to the fact that the $150. advanced by you formaking the survey of Wrangell property was not included in my last letter to you. I am sorry that this was overlooked as you made it clear that your own personal account was not top heavy through a plethora of funds. I enclose check for the above amount with apologies for this inadvertent delay.

The Finance Committee of this Board, by e mail vote, has approved of this sale upon the terms named in your letter, without date, to Dr. Montgomery which letter I acknowledged to you in my letter of the 21st ult.

According to our practice I then referred the matter to our General Counsel for recommendation as to what kind of note would be acceptable and now have reply to the effect that one of three ways can be followed, viz:

1. that the note shall be endorsed by some one for whose responsibility you can vouch, or
2. mortgage can be given securing the $800 note, or
3. that some clause like the following be inserted in such deed as this Board may execute:

"The consideration for this conveyance is $1,800. of which $1,000. has been paid. For the remaining $800. the note of the grantees has been given to the grantor to secure which the grantor retains, with the express consent of the grantees a vendor's lien for the full unpaid amount, to wit, $800."

What I want to carefully conserve is the remainder interests of the board in the possible event that the $800 note is not liquidated. I am, therefore, inclined to think that the third suggestion is the better way and that when the note is paid we can execute such paper as may be desired in acknowledgment of the payment of the note which can be recorded and thus clear title to the property.

On the other hand, we do not want to impose conditions which will prove irritable or unacceptable to the purchasers. If you are well advised that such endorsements as may be placed on the note are a sufficient protection to the Board, we will then interpose no objections but adopt this procedure.

It would seem to be unnecessary to consider the second suggestion regarding the mortgage as either the first or third suggestion would be acceptable to the Board.

On the 19th inst. a formal resolution will be presented to and adopted by our Board authorizing this sale, as well as authorizing the proper officers of the Board to execute the legal transfer. We will then be able to carry out this sale to a close.

In the meantime, if the purchasers are ready, they might forward to the Board, through you, the payment of $1,000. which you are authorized to receive in the name and behalf of the Board and to give a receipt therefor as the payment on account of the purchase price of the land to be conveyed by the Board. As previously advised this amount should be sent to the Board without delay.

If the purchasers object to the payment of the $1,000 until the deed of transfer can be given them, I will see that the deed is sent you to be delivered upon receipt of the $1,000. In the latter case please secure a certified check as I assume that payment will be made on bank locatedelsewhere than in Wrangell. If check is drawn on a bank in Wrangell an ordinary check would be acceptable as you can at once deposit the check and secure draft on New York for the amount providing, of course, that the local bank has means of giving a draft on New York or some affiliated bank in the States.

Yours sincerely,

VB MG Treasurer
Enc.

BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

JOSEPH DUNN BURRELL, PRESIDENT
HERBERT K. TWITCHELL, VICE-PRESIDENT
H. N. MORSE, SECRETARY
VARIAN BANKS, TREASURER

June 24th, 1925.

**To the members of the Finance Committee,
Board of Home Missions.**

Dear Sirs: **Re:** WRANGELL, ALASKA, PROPERTY

The following resolution is submitted for your consideration:

RESOLVED: that the proper officers of the Board be and they are hereby authorized in the name and behalf of the Board and under its seal to sign a deed conveying to A.E.Gurr and H.W.Gartley, jointly, both of Wrangell, Alaska, the following described parcel of land segregated from the Board's property at Wrangell, ~~Alaska~~ Alaska:

Beginning at N.W.corner of original Presbyterian Missionsite (marked by a cross on a granite boulder 4' x 2-1/2' and showing one foot above ground and marked P.M.); thence S. 65° 50' E. a distance of 79.80 ft. to another original corner of P.M. site (marked by a cross on a granite boulder 2' x 1-1/2' and showing one foot above ground); thence N. 24° 24' E. a distance of 97.86 ft. to another original corner of P.M.Site (marked by a cross on a granite stone 12' x 8' and showing five inches above ground); thence S. 67° 12' E. a distance of 683 ft. to an original corner of P.M. Site (marked by a cross on a granite boulder 4' x 3' and showing 1-1/2' above ground); thence S. 23° 03' W. a distance of 301.73 ft. to a cross on a granite stone 12' x 9' and showing 8' above ground, identical with N.E. corner of U.S. School Reserve; thence N.64° 20' W. along N.E.boundary of U.S. School Reserve a distance of 208.30 ft to original corner of P.M. Site and U.S.School Reserve (marked by a cross on a granite stone 10'x 9' showing 8' above ground); thence S.23° 10' W. along N.W.boundary of U.S.School Reserve a distance of 208.16 ft to a cross on a slate stone 12' x 7' and showing 3' above ground and marked U.S.S.R., on line of N. boundary of Church Street; thence N.66° 51' 30" W. along N. boundary of Church Street 175.51 ft. to a cross on a granite stone 15'x 8' and showing 3' above ground; thence N.23° 18' E. a distance of 110 ft. to a cross on a granite stone 22' x 16' flush with the ground; thence N. 66° 51' 30" W. a distance of 84 ft. to a cross on a grainite stone 10'x 8' and showing 2' above ground; thence N.23°18' E. a distance of 141.73 ft to a cross on a granite stone 12' x 9' and showing 2' above ground; thence N. 66° 42' W. along South side of Reid Street (extended) a distance of 303.48 ft. to intersection with original N.W.boundary of P.M.Site; thence N. 25° 09'30" E. along said original N.W.boundary a distance of 146.80 ft. to the place of beginning containing 5.434 acres more or less.

I vote for the adoption of this resolution
George D. Gurr

June 26th, 1925.

Rev.Robert J. Diven, D.D.,
Wrangell,
Alaska

Dear Dr. Diven:

My keen eyed secretary has just called my attention to the fact that I have overlooked replying to that portion of your letterof the 30th ult. in which you inquired how we treated the sum of $500.29 which was advanced to cover the repairs to the Wrangell church, which amount the Board advanced to be taken from the proceeds from anticipated sales.

The above amount was carried in a separate account from the summer of 1922 until we were about to close the books of the Board of Home Missions for the year ended March 31, 1924. In cleaning up all balances of the old Board, so as to go into the new Board with as few dead horses to pay for as possible, I did charge the above sum to the Presbytery of Alaska taking the sum, as I recall it, from the unused portion of the appropriation to Alaska Presbytery for 1923-24. This action, however, was taken only tentatively inasmuch as we could only adopt this procedure temporarily pending the sale of that portion of the Wrangell property not required in your work. To that end, memorandum was made by which we are to deduct from such sales as are made, the above amount in order that the Wrangell property might stand on its own feet, so to speak. The result is that this $500.29 will need to come out of the cash when received from theproposed sale which will leave a much smaller sum available, than you probably estimated.

In addition, we have advanced, as you know, the sum of $190. which you had to pay for surveying, etc., making a total of $690.29 for which we will need to reimburse ourselvesfrom the first $1,000. received from this sale.

I am glad that you agree with the decision taken by this office that money collected in Alaska should be sent to New York. In this way are we not only able to keep full record of how matters stand but for future reference&

I may say in this connection that some years ago, upon the plea of Dr. Young, the missionary in charge at Haines was authorized to retain all rentals and to make report here. During Mr. Winterberger's regime everything was kept straight and was well understood, but since his retirement the financial records of that Mission have not been kept satisfactorily. Inasmuch as this procedure, however, involved only a small sum, viz: $1. per year for each lease and the comparatively small amount of rental received from the lease of the farm at Haines, no attempt has been made to change this procedure, but I rather think that it would be desirable for the protection of Mr. Bromley, as well as for clear record, to have all the small rentals retained in Haines and to forward the rental paid in by Mr. C. B. McRae on the farm lease. This

latter rental when received can be kept in a separate account and can be used for such purposes as the Board may determine upon the recommendation of your Committee. I am, therefore, writing to Mr. Bromley in this matter as per letter enclosed which I will ask you to first read and then mail to him stating that you have read it and it is forwarded by you at our request with your approval.

Let me take this occasion to apologize for failing to send more promptly the amount you advanced. It was inadvertently overlooked, but I trust it is in your hands by this time as check for $190. was forwarded in my letter to you of the 8th inst.

Yours sincerely,

VB MG Varian Banks, Acting Treasurer

Enc.

P.S.- Inasmuch as the Board has granted a considerable sum to Alaska Presbytery for repairs on sundry church buildings which sums are not charged against the current budget, I think it would be only fair to apply allreturns from property sales or from rentals towards reducing, in part, all these additional sums provided by the Board. I have inmind the rentals at Haines. It would be both consistent and equitable to apply the lease rentals at Haines towards meeting the amount of the grant made for the repairs to the Haines church, recently sent you. I,therefore, think the best plan would be to have these lease rentals credited underthe head of miscellaneous receipts as part of our current income.